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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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## I N S I D E



### Past Affairs

NY Gov. David Paterson has admitted he and his wife had affairs during a rough patch in their marriage several years ago.

**NATION...Page 15**

### Suicide Blast

A female suicide bomber struck Shiite worshippers in the holy city of Karbala on Monday, an official and a witness said, killing at least 43 people and leaving pools of blood on the street leading to one of Iraq's most revered mosques.

**WORLD...Page 16**



### \$48M Award

One of Britain's bitterest divorces reached a settlement Monday when Heather Mills was awarded \$48.6 million.

**LIFE & STYLE...Page 18**

2 oil companies increase gas prices anew. **PAGE 3**  
Club owner gets prison time for immigration fraud. **PAGE 5**

## Len's 5 Tavern is burglarized

A bar in Garapan was burglarized early yesterday morning, during which six amusement machines were forcibly opened. The Department of Public Safety has yet to release any information about the burglary that occurred at Len's 5 Tavern, located along Beach Road.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the burglary was discovered yesterday shortly before 8am, when two construction workers observed that the window at the back of the building was open.

The two construction workers who noticed the break-in have been doing renovation work on the building for three weeks now.

**See LEN'S on Page 4**

## Permanent US status?

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A ranking congressional staffer insists that the provision on CNMI immigration included in S.2739 allows non-resident workers to remain in the CNMI during the transition period and offers them an opportunity to gain permanent U.S. status. The Fitial administration, however, argues that the bill is vague on this matter and on several other aspects relating to immigration.

The congressional staff tion of anonymity due to the source, who spoke on condi- **See PERMANENT on Page 4**



Reyes

## 'S.2739 is freshened version of S.2483'

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The spokesman of the powerful Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee said that Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D, NM) introduced a new omnibus bill because S.2483 was already outdated.

"We simply updated the original package to add new bills—all bipartisan and non-controversial—that the House had passed or which our committee had reported. These additional bills were ready for the floor, and the earlier omnibus lands bill was getting stale," committee communications director Bill Wicker said in a Blackberry message to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Wicker added that repackaging bills is a common practice in **See S.2739 on Page 4**



## MS Statendam pays Saipan a short visit

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The MS *Statendam*, a 720-foot cruise ship of the Holland America Line, arrived for a short stop on Saipan yesterday, carrying with it at least 1,700 passengers, most of whom are World War II veterans.

Local veterans arranged a short tour of the island through the Pacific Micronesian Tours, during which the visitors had the chance to reminisce while sightseeing at the Forbidden

**See MS on Page 4**

The 720-foot, 10-deck MS *Statendam* cruise ship is seen docked at the Port of Saipan yesterday. *Statendam* is the fifth ship to bear the name in Holland America Line's 130-year history.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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**CONNECT**





# Local

## CHALLENGE MASTERS

Participants play the "hula hoop race" during a workshop dubbed "Challenge Masters" in observance of the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month at the Aqua Resort Club Tuesday afternoon. The activities empower participants to develop and strengthen self-confidence, effective teamwork, problem-solving and communication skills.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## 'When it comes to diabetes, patient compliance is key'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN  
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REPORTER

With the ever increasing number of diabetes cases in the CNMI, the Department of Public Health says that "patient compliance" is really the key to longer living as there is no "magic pill" that will completely cure the disease.

Dr. Edward Cornette, director of Medical Affairs, defines patient compliance as taking medications as prescribed, eating properly and exercising, and taking responsibility.

He says that, although DPH is well-equipped to assist patients in diabetic and blood pressure education, "patient compliance is really the key."

"The internal medicine and family medicine physicians are well-trained in the management of these diseases. The emergency medicine physicians are well-trained in managing the 'emergency issues' involving these diseases. However, ideally, we do not wish to have emergency situations, yet they are a part of life," Cornette said.

He said that the medical cost

to treat diabetes in the CNMI is "staggering" and that the dollar cost is far reaching. The CNMI reportedly spends up to \$8.8 million a year on the hemodialysis treatment of diabetic patients at the Commonwealth Health Center.

CHC is currently treating 96 patients at the hemodialysis center. The average cost of dialysis for one patient is \$92,654.83 per year, as reported earlier by the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition.

Cornette said that diabetes and uncontrolled blood pressure are responsible for the majority of health care costs in the CNMI.

"The untoward effects of kidney failure, stroke, [and] heart disease are at the foundation of the mortality and morbidity in the CNMI. They also increase visits to the hospital and contribute to long inpatient hospital admissions," Cornette said.

However, controlling the disease through medication, diet, exercise and lifestyle changes "can greatly impact the health care costs in the CNMI," Cornette said.

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## CDD conducts NMI disability registry survey

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**  
rianne\_pangelinan@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is currently conducting a Disability Registry Survey throughout the CNMI to make it easier for the Council to keep in contact with those with developmental disabilities.

Executive director Tony C. Chong said the survey is strictly for those with developmental disabilities.

He cited two types of disabilities: developmental disability that one acquires from birth to 22 years, and a more mainstream disability, which is a disability by age or health.

"Our main focus are the ones with developmental disabilities," Chong said.

He said there is a CNMI-wide count of about 3,000 individuals living with developmental disability in the CNMI, 800 of whom are children in the school system.

"Those are big numbers. Any number of disabilities is a big number," Chong said.

He said that services provided by organizations for those with disabilities are "very limited."

At the same time, the number of individuals with developmental disabilities is going up and the organizations and agencies who service these people can only do so much.

"Sometimes, they can only provide to so many people because funding is an issue," Chong said.

He said the CDD has already concluded the Disability Registry Survey on Rota and is now halfway through on Tinian.

"When we visited Tinian and Rota, we got more than we expected. The survey will help us keep in close contact with individuals and families with disabilities," Chong said.

Chong explained that conducting the survey even on smaller islands such as Tinian and Rota "is very difficult because when you meet with somebody to do the census, sometimes it takes more than an hour."

He said the survey is conducted in a way that each house is visited in order for the program to be successful.

"Another primary reason why I authorized this is because we want to know who these people are and try to get them to participate in workshops that they can learn a lot from," Chong said.

Chong said the Disability Registry Survey for Saipan will be conducted in the next fiscal year.

One of the major purposes of the survey is to advocate for people with disabilities and their families. "We also want to make sure that those providing services to people with disabilities are providing the services they are supposed to," Chong said.

## 2 oil companies increase gas prices anew

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The two oil companies on the island have increased their gas prices on Saipan again, pushing prices closer to the \$4.50 a gallon mark. This is also the companies' third increase of the year.

Mobil Oil Marianas and Shell Marianas Inc. increased their prices of regular and premium unleaded by 10 cents a gallon, and raised the price of diesel by 12 cents a gallon.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mobil Oil was the first to imple-

ment the increase Sunday, while Shell began adjusting its prices only last night.

Mobil Oil did not announce the increase. Shell informed the public about the adjustment yesterday.

Shell Marianas Inc. president Eloy Lizama said that Shell Saipan's product costs are trading at new record levels, forcing the company to pump up its prices.

"Locally, most of us will be aware from the international media that the price of crude oil, gasoline and diesel in Singapore have reached new record levels. This increase in Shell's finished

product cost forces us to move our prices," said Lizama in a press statement.

Lizama said the price increases would be posted as of the close of business Tuesday night.

Mobil and Shell have the same prices.

With the increase, the self-service price for regular gas will now be \$4.149 a gallon, while premium or super will now be

\$4.339 a gallon.

For full service, the price for regular will now be \$4.279, while premium or super is \$4.459.

Diesel's price will now be at \$4.419 a gallon.

The two companies raised their gas prices on Jan. 8 and in the last week of February.

## THANK YOU

The Taga, Inc., the organizing committee of the 19th Annual Tagaman Triathlon, 7th Annual Saipan Xterra Championship and 7th Taga Kids Triathlon would like to thank the following businesses and agencies for making these events a great success:



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- ❖ Triple J Wholesale
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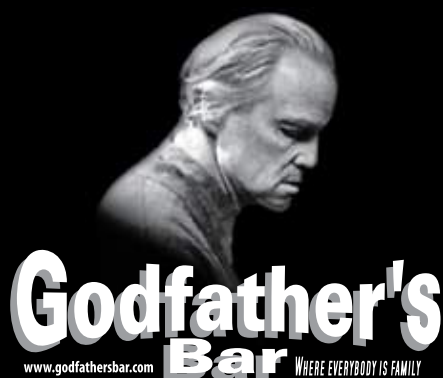
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# US govt sues firm for \$1M OSHA penalties

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The U.S. government filed yesterday a lawsuit against Sablan Construction Company Ltd. to collect its alleged delinquent debts totaling over \$1 million arising from numerous penalties imposed by the Occupational Safety and Health

Administration.

The U.S. government, acting on behalf of the U.S. Department of Labor's OSHA, sued the Sablan Construction Co. Ltd. also known as Sablan Corp., Sablan Rock Quarry, and Sablan Enterprises Inc.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mikel W. Schwab and Jessica F. Cruz asked the U.S.

District Court for the NMI to order the defendant to pay \$700,000 in principal amount plus \$65,335.20 in accrued pre-judgment interest.

The lawyers also demanded payment of \$228,999.87 in administrative charges, \$52,501.50 in penalty charges, and \$350 in filing fees.

The complaint alleged that

on July 18, 1991, an OSHA safety officer conducted a comprehensive safety inspection of the company's operations at its Sablan Building in Chalan Piao and found multiple violations.

The complaint said that on Oct. 17, 1991, OSHA issued to Sablan Construction 15 citations, including seven "serious" violations.

On March 23, 1992, an OSHA safety officer conducted a comprehensive safety inspection of the company's office extension in Chalan Piao and found certain violations.

On June 17, 1992, Sablan Construction was issued two citations, the lawyers said in the lawsuit.

More citations were issued

in August 1992, 1995, 1998, and 2001.

"Due demand has been made upon the defendant for the principal amount of \$700,000 plus accrued interest, penalties and administrative charges and defendant has failed, neglected, and refused to pay said indebtedness," the complaint said.

## Man granted asylum sues US, NMI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A Bangladeshi security guard who was granted protection from refoulement in the CNMI has sued the CNMI and U.S. governments for allegedly denying his rights to get his family members from his country.

Mohammed Kamal Hossain, through attorney Edward Peterson of the Micronesian Legal Services Corp., also named Attorney General Matthew Gregory as co-defendant in the lawsuit.

Hossain asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a permanent injunction restraining the defendants from denying him the right to apply for derivative protection of his family members.

Hossain asked the court to issue an order that will oblige and require the CNMI government to immediately create "a meaningful and impartial procedure" for considering applications for derivative protection of family members outside the CNMI belonging to persons who have been granted asylum protection.

Peterson stated in the complaint that the plaintiff has previously sought protection for his family members.

Peterson said neither the federal government nor the CNMI have provided Hossain protection for his family members outside the CNMI.

Hossain's family members were also not granted permission to join him or be reunited as a family in the CNMI.

Peterson asserted that the lack

of process for Hossain to apply to bring his family members outside the CNMI violates the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the Covenant, and the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees recommendations.

Peterson believes that Hossain's family should be protected pursuant to equal protection of the law and under international law.

The lawyer said the family is the natural and fundamental unit of society and is entitled to protection by the society and the state and that this is recognized in the U.S. INS provisions for derivative family protection.

In a decision issued Aug. 22, 2006, CNMI Office of Refugee Protection administrative protection judge Dana M. Emery

granted Hossain's asylum application.

Hossain requested the Attorney General's Office to allow him to get his wife and two children from Bangladesh, but the AGO denied it.

Dana stated that family members of a person granted protection from refoulement in the CNMI are not covered with the protection.

Hossain once testified in a criminal case before federal court against a person who was reportedly also involved in organized crime and a militant Islamist political party in Bangladesh.

As a result of his testimony, Hossain said he was threatened on Saipan and that his family in Bangladesh was also being threatened.

### S.2739

From Page 1

Washington, D.C., especially because of the time constraints facing an election year.

"Keep in mind that floor time in an election year is precious, as the legislative calendar is compressed. Also, there is no shortage of competition among bills that are eligible for consideration. By updating the omnibus lands bill, making it bigger and more inclusive, the end result is more efficient and effective use of Senate floor time."

He said the eight new bills in S. 2739—Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008—are:

■ Sec. 202 H.R. 1922—Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, FL (S. 1143);

■ Sec. 313 H.R. 161—Minidoka National Historic Site/Bainbridge Island (S. 916);

■ Sec. 314 H.R. 2251—Acadia National Park Authorizations (S. 1329);

■ Sec. 327 H.R. 3998—Rim of the Valley Study;

■ Sec. 335 H. Con. Res. 209—Museum of the American Quilter's Society;

■ Sec. 514 H.R. 902—"More

Water, More Energy";

■ Sec. 515 H.R. 1462—Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (S. 752); and

■ Sec. 516 H.R. 1337—Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District Study (S. 175).

The Senate is expected to take action on S.2739 after the spring recess, which lasts from March 17 to 28. The new omnibus bill, which was introduced on March 10 (Washington, D.C. time), will not go before a U.S. Senate committee and will be considered directly on the Senate floor.

If it passes the Senate, it immediately goes to President Bush for his signature.

The Fitial administration has lobbied the committee to remove the provision relating to the federalization of local immigration from the omnibus bill, arguing that this should be treated as a separate bill.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has said that lumping the CNMI federalization bill with other bills and dubbing them "non-controversial" is unfair to the CNMI because it considers the federal takeover a controversial measure that should be debated separately.

### LENS

From Page 1

Ben Laca, a mason, said that he and a co-worker have been fixing the drainage floor at the back of Len's 5 Tavern. When they arrived yesterday morning, Laca said he noticed that the glass window had been opened and the plywood behind the window was pushed in.

When they peeped inside, they saw some amusement machines have been broken, so they immediately called the owner.

The suspect or suspects forcibly opened the six amusement

machines inside the bar and took the money.

The damaged amusement machines were the Megatouch (Internet online game), Shuffle Alley Pro Bowler, two Scorpion darts, a Skill crane, and Starlink Internet jukebox.

A visit by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday afternoon showed that, except for the Megatouch, the other machines have already been fixed.

No one has been arrested yet in the burglary.

An employee said this was the first time that the bar was burglarized. The bar was closed down between 12am and 1am yesterday. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

### MS

From Page 1

Island, Banzai Cliff, the American Memorial Park World War II Historic Museum, Obyan Beach, and the Last Command Post, just to name a few.

The ship departed the island yesterday evening on its way to Iwo Jima.

The MS *Statendam* is the fifth ship to bear the name in Holland America Line's more than 130-year history.

Although a large ship, it is designed to carry fewer guests

while providing more space for maximum comfort.

The interior walls of the ship are adorned with arts and artifacts worth more than \$2 million.

Inside, there is a Van Gogh theater, which commemorates Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh's paintings "The Starry Night" and "Irises".

Right in the center of the ship is a three-story atrium showcasing a 26-foot high "Fountain of the Siren" sculpture.

The ship promises numerous sights and adventures as it travels Asia, the Panama Canal, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

### DPS

#### MEETING

Newly appointed Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde Norita talks to all the DPS division's officers and staff during a general meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Tuesday afternoon.  
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



### PERMANENT

From Page 1

sensitivity of the matter, said the proposed Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 provides that "all current CNMI workers would be eligible to remain in the CNMI under the federal guest worker program, and may become eligible for permanent U.S. status."

He added that, at the earliest, the nonresident worker program would be phased out in 2014, but added that the federal government has the option to extend that.

"There shouldn't be any confusion, as 2014 is six years away, and the law provides that the transition period can be extended in five-year increments indefinitely," he added.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes said the bill should be very clear about the possibility of improved status for nonresi-

dent workers in the CNMI.

"...But there's lot of ambiguity and it needs to be resolved. We don't want to pander and cater to the nonresident workers [and] give them hope but at the same time there is contrary language. There seems to be a contradiction. Why do they even have to have that phase-out language in the first place?" he asked.

Reyes emphasized that the CNMI will always need contract workers for the foreseeable future in order to sustain, grow, and develop its economy. "There will always be a need for contract workers."

The press secretary also said that the Fitial administration is wary of a federally-run guest worker program during the transition period.

"The market should determine how many workers we should have, not federal bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. who are detached and far removed from our

situation here locally. The market should decide what kind of workers and how many workers are needed because the market is going to need the different skills and knowledge from afar," he said.

Reyes said that what S.2793 and its provisions on the federal takeover of CNMI immigration seeks to do is micromanage the islands' guest worker program from afar without considering local needs.

"It should really depend on market forces and not federal dictates far removed from market forces and local needs. [They're] trying to impose political considerations on a market economy regardless of our true market needs," he said.

Sub-section (h) of S.2739 requires the Interior Secretary—in consultation with the Homeland Security Secretary and the CNMI governor—to provide Congress with a report on the nonresident guest worker popu-

lation no later than two years after the date of enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008.

The report shall include:

(1) the number of aliens residing in the Commonwealth;

(2) a description of the legal status (under federal law) of such aliens;

(3) the number of years each alien has been residing in the Commonwealth; and

(4) the current and future requirements of the Commonwealth economy for an alien workforce.

In the report, the Interior Secretary will be required to make recommendations to Congress "as to whether or not the Congress should consider permitting lawfully admitted guest workers lawfully residing in the Commonwealth on such enactment date to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States."



# Club owner gets prison time for immigration fraud

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Superior Court has ordered one of the owners of the defunct Stardust Club to spend two years and six months in prison for immigration fraud.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman directed David M. Atalig to start serving the prison term at the Department of Corrections on April 1, 2008.

Atalig, who was given credit for one day that he had already served in jail, will be released on Sept. 30, 2010.

"The court believes this is a case where the interest of justice and of this society will be best served by imposing a jail term that the court believes will have a deterrent effect on the defendant upon his release, upon any potential offenders, and will serve the retribution that society demands," said the judge in a written order issued yesterday.

Atalig, his wife Corazon, and two former employees were convicted of hiring under-aged girls from the Philippines, using different names and forged birth certificates.

The Atalig couple signed a plea agreement with the government.

Mr. Atalig pleaded "no contest" to one count of immigration fraud, while Mrs. Atalig pleaded "no contest" to four counts of aiding, abetting, and encouraging illegal entry.

The employees—Nilda Maniego and Priscilla D. Rulloda—pleaded "no contest" to one count of harboring an illegal alien. Maniego and Rulloda are sisters of Mrs. Atalig.

The remaining charges against the defendants were dismissed as part of the agreement.

With respect to Mr. Atalig, Wiseman originally set the sentencing for February 2008, then reset it to March 2008.

The plea agreement in Mr. Atalig's case provides for a sentence within the range of two to five years in prison subject to a pre-sentence report and hearing. The agreement also provides for a probation period of up to three years.

Assistant attorney general Kevin A. Lynch recommended four years in prison, while the pre-sentence investigation report prepared by the Adult Probation recommended three years.

Defense attorney Robert T. Torres urged the minimum sentence of two years.

Wiseman said that, although Atalig has been convicted of immigration fraud, the court can consider other factors, including the dismissed charges, for purposes of sentencing. Wiseman said the defense has presented several mitigating factors and chief among them is the defendant's sincere remorse and acceptance of responsibility.

"Defendant has shown this in

his elocution in court as well as by other non-court actions regarding this matter," he said.

The judge cited that one such action was an agreed upon settlement with the Department of Labor for a substantial sum of money in the six figures.

"Defendant has no prior criminal history and is 64 years old. He has achieved a graduate education and was a Rota delegate to the Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention. He also served the CNMI as a deputy director and director of Department of Public Works," Wiseman noted.

"Although these and other positive attributes of defendant do not mitigate the seriousness of this case, they do provide mitigation for the court re-

garding the length of sentence to be given to the defendant," Wiseman said.

The judge said he took these submissions, as well as all evidence on record, and arguments and testimony before the court at the sentencing hearing into consideration when he came up with the sentence.

Wiseman had already sentenced Mrs. Atalig in January to 364 days in prison, with two days credit for time already served. This means that Corazon Atalig will serve a total of 362 days more. She started serving the prison term on Jan. 28, 2008, and shall be released on Jan. 25, 2009 at 8am.

Wiseman said Corazon Atalig shall be eligible for parole as determined by the Board of Parole.

As for Maniego and Rulloda, Wiseman suspended the imposition of sentence last January and placed the two on probation for three years.

The probation conditions

include that Maniego and Rulloda will voluntarily depart the CNMI at their own expenses on or before Jan. 23, 2008. The two were ordered to each pay \$25 in court assessment fee.



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## 'Accelerate action on legislative initiatives'

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rep. Tina Sablan is urging her colleagues in the House to act swiftly on 11 initiatives to amend the CNMI Constitution that are currently pending at the lower chamber.

In a memo sent to fellow congressmen Monday, Sablan said that time is running out on the initiatives as several of them are scheduled to be presented to the people in a special election as soon as April 19.

The initiatives relate to the Commonwealth's utilities crisis, land alienation laws, fiscal problems resulting from the lack of a balanced budget, and the size, cost, and structure of the Legislature.

"In the last few weeks, I have been receiving a steady stream of phone calls and e-mails from constituents inquiring about the status of these initiatives. At Rep. [Heinz] Hofschneider's initiative education table at the Sabalu Market on March 15, we met dozens of concerned citizens who were eager to talk about the issues that are raised by the initiatives, and anxious to know if and when they would be able to vote on them," she said.

"Unfortunately, in responding to the queries I have received, I have not been able to report much progress within the Legislature in the weeks since the initiatives were introduced. We have, in fact, barely moved on any of the initiatives."

Sablan said there is a great deal of public interest about the initiatives but many people are confused as to what course of action the Legislature is taking on the proposed special election.

"At the very least, the pertinent committees should meet to review the initiatives, hold public hearings, and resolve the questions of whether or not any of the initiatives merit a special election—and if so, which ones, and when.

"Colleagues...I respectfully ask that we take expeditious action on the proposed initiatives so that our people can begin to properly prepare for the decisions they may soon be asked to make. We owe it to our constituents to be clear about what our course of action on these initiatives will be, and how we plan to respond to their concerns."

House lawmakers were asked for their comments about Sablan's memo but many said they have not seen it yet.

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## OPA: Taotao Tano request will be given due attention

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Public Auditor Michael Sablan confirmed yesterday that his office has received an audit request for the Department of Public Lands and the defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority and said OPA will "give it the attention it deserves."

"We will consider Mr. [Gregorio] Cruz's request. At this time, we are very, very stretched with our resources. We have 28 different ongoing engagements and so it's a question of relative priorities.

"We have a number of engagements that are high priority and we need to get those completed before any resources become available for new engagements," said Sablan in an interview yesterday following the Saipan Rotary Club's weekly meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

He said that OPA has done audits in the past regarding leases of public lands for quarries. In addition to that, five or six other audits involving public lands were conducted, with the most recent involving Managaha landing fees, released last fall.

"Last year we released a confidential report on land compensation payments and a year prior

to that a confidential report on travel at MPLA," he said.

The Public Auditor said he hopes to meet with the committee that reviews audit requests before the end of March.

"Not to say that public land lease is not a priority but we have to look at relative priority. OPA receives requests every single day. But this is a request involving a significant public interest because of the nature of the request and it will be given the attention it deserves. We'll probably decide by the end of the month where it would fall within our relative priority," Sablan said.

Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz Jr. on Monday asked OPA to start an investigation into DPL concerning public lands leases in the Commonwealth.

Specifically, the group wants OPA to investigate DPL's conduct in the areas of fair market value, amendments of leaseholds, contents of leaseholds in black and white vis-à-vis actual physical condition or operation and use of public land lease-by-lease, temporary permits, leases of public lands right of way, land compensations, personal interest involvements, as well as the current moratorium on all homestead developments by the Fitial administration.



**COMMUNITY BRIEFS****ACT sets meeting today**

The CNMI Association of Commonwealth Teachers Association will have a General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, at 6pm, in the San Vicente Elementary School's cafeteria.

Topics for discussion include:

- 1) Update on appointment of a Teacher's Representative to the Board of Education.
- 2) Plans for the upcoming election of Vice-President and Secretary
- 3) Updates on ACT activities and the Board of Education
- 4) Needs or concerns from teachers.

All interested members of the community are invited to attend.

For information contact Betty Miller at 237-3761 or 287-2386.

**Vigil today marks 5th year of Iraq war**

For several months now, a small group of concerned residents has gathered every Friday afternoon at the American Memorial Park to silently protest the Iraq war and pray for all who are serving in the nation's armed services.

Today marks the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq and the group will once more gather at the American Memorial Park from 5:30pm to 5:55pm to mark this milestone. Concerned residents are welcome to join the group.

**MHS Class of '88 meeting**

Members of the Marianas High School Class of 1988 are being reminded that there will be a meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2008, at 6:30pm, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito behind Saipan International School. All classmates are encourage to attend this important meeting.

For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. (PR)

**Oleai Elementary School registration**

The Oleai Elementary School said that the registration for all incoming Kindergartens for school year 2008-09 will be from April 1 to April 30, 2008. Students entering Kindergarten must have been born between Sept. 1, 2002, and Aug. 31, 2003.

For new first grade and transfer students (grades 1 to 6th), registration will be in June to July 2008.

- Documents required for registration are:
- Birth certificate (from the court)
- School entrance health certificate (updated)
- Current school accident/health insurance coverage/Medicaid card (updated)
- Residency map
- Legal adoption/guardianship documents (if applicable)

applicable)

- Valid CNMI entry permit (if applicable)

Oleai Elementary School zone covers the areas bounded by south of Naked Fish Restaurant on Beach Road, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya (golf course), bottom of As Terlaje Hill, north of Island Market to Falughula and San Jose (Oleai).

For more information, call the school at 664-3942. (PR)

**Zoning Board sets meeting today**

The Zoning Board is holding a meeting today to inform people about the zoning program and to take suggestions for revising the law. The meeting will be held at 6pm at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria.

**Petition to graduate deadline extended**

The Northern Marianas College has extended the deadline for the submission of petitions to graduate for Spring 2008. The new deadline is March 28, 2008. Any questions or concerns regarding the Spring 2008 graduation can be addressed to Rosaline Cepeda, Acting Director of the Office of Admissions and Records, at 234-5498 ext 1540 or email rosalincec@nmcnet.edu.

**Live-fire training on Farallon**

The Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam said that the U.S. military would be conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on March 21, from 7am to 12am.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

**English placement tests set**

The Northern Marianas College will be administering the English Placement Tests on the following dates:

- April 2, 2008, 9am – 12pm, Room: D-1
- April 4, 2008, 4pm – 7pm, Room: D-1

Bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am - 4pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment. For more information, call the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2000 or 1242. (NMC)

**Saipan seeks to address rising criminality**

There will be an island-wide meeting for all Saipan residents next week to introduce the newly created Municipal Neighborhood Watch Task Force, which seeks to address the rising criminality in villages.

The meeting, hosted by the Office of the Mayor of Saipan in collaboration with the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council and the Municipal Neighborhood Watch Task Force,

will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008, at 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road in Susupe.

Task Force members are mostly retired police officers from the CNMI Department of Public Safety, government agencies like DPS, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the youth, and representatives from the precincts.

The Task Force will also gather preliminary areas of concern

about the increasing number of criminal activities in the villages of Saipan. A series of nightly meetings will be held soon.

"Do you want to be a volunteer crime fighter in your village? If you do, you are invited to attend this important meeting and let your interest and voice be heard. Help fight crime by becoming a volunteer in your village," the Task Force said in a statement.

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MELL SENOKO	V001	3/8 SAT	3/6 THU	3/3 MON	3/13 THU	2/26 TUE	3/1 SAT	3/14 FRI	3/10 MON	3/9 SUN	3/4 TUE	2/24 SUN	3/10 MON	3/14 FRI	3/15 SAT
ASIAN ISLAND	V006	3/15 SAT	3/13 THU	3/3 MON	3/20 THU	3/4 TUE	3/8 SAT	3/21 FRI	3/17 MON	3/16 SUN	3/11 TUE	3/2 SUN	3/17 MON	3/21 FRI	3/22 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	V014	3/22 SAT	3/20 THU	3/10 MON	3/27 THU	3/11 TUE	3/15 SAT	3/28 FRI	3/24 MON	3/23 SUN	3/18 TUE	3/9 SUN	3/24 MON	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT
MELL SENOKO	V002	3/29 SAT	3/27 THU	3/17 MON	4/3 THU	3/18 TUE	3/22 SAT	4/4 FRI	3/31 MON	3/30 SUN	3/25 TUE	3/16 SUN	3/31 MON	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT
ASIAN ISLAND	V007	4/5 SAT	4/3 THU	3/24 MON	4/10 THU	3/25 TUE	3/29 SAT	4/11 FRI	4/7 MON	4/6 SUN	4/1 TUE	3/23 SUN	4/7 MON	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	V015	4/12 SAT	4/10 THU	3/31 MON	4/17 THU	4/1 TUE	4/5 SAT	4/18 FRI	4/14 MON	4/13 SUN	4/8 TUE	3/30 SUN	4/14 MON	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Guam	ETD Saipn	ETD Yan	ETD Koror	ETD GenSan	ETD Davao	ETD Cebu	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Manila	ETD Singapore
MELL SENOKO	V001	3/21 FRI	3/22 SAT	3/22 SAT	3/25 TUE	3/26 WED	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT	4/1 TUE	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT	4/8 TUE	4/8 TUE	4/9 WED
ASIAN ISLAND	V006	3/28 FRI	3/29 SAT	3/29 SAT	SKIP	4/2 WED	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT	4/8 TUE	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	4/15 TUE	4/15 TUE	4/16 WED
STADT HAMBURG	V014	4/4 FRI	4/5 SAT	4/5 SAT	4/8 TUE	4/9 WED	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	4/15 TUE	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT	4/22 TUE	4/22 TUE	4/23 WED
MELL SENOKO	V002	4/11 FRI	4/12 SAT	4/12 SAT	4/15 TUE	4/16 WED	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT	4/22 TUE	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/29 TUE	4/29 TUE	4/30 WED
ASIAN ISLAND	V007	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT	4/19 SAT	4/22 TUE	4/23 WED	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/29 TUE	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/6 TUE	5/7 WED
STADT HAMBURG	V015	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/26 SAT	SKIP	4/30 WED	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/13 TUE	5/14 WED

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# Horizon hopes to lower cost via fuel efficiency

Horizon Lines, Inc. last week announced that it has implemented newly enhanced fuel efficiency and cost-management programs focused on conservation.

The Charlotte, N.C.-based company said the fuel-saving initiatives include ship hull and propeller maintenance programs as well as working directly with each ship captain to identify appropriate changes in speed or course to lower overall fuel consumption while allowing ships to remain on schedule.

Recent examples of the company's fuel cost-recovery efforts include surcharge increases in Alaska, Puerto Rico and a pending increase in Hawaii.

Horizon also expects further

fuel-efficiency improvements this year from its participation in the SmartWay Transport Partnership, a collaborative effort by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the freight industry to increase energy efficiency while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

SmartWay aims to save up to 150 million barrels of fuel per year. It involves freight shippers, trucking companies, railroads, logistics companies, and trade and professional associations.

"We have one of the best fuel-cost management programs in the industry," says John Keenan, president of Horizon. "However, the rapid rise in fuel prices requires that we do even more

to improve fuel efficiency and cost recovery across our entire network. As fuel prices hit new highs almost every day, we will work internally with our associates to improve efficiency and with our customers to address cost recovery."

Last week Horizon Lines mirrored the increase of business rival Matson Navigation by upping its fuel surcharge a whopping 2.25 percentage points to a record 33.75 percent for ocean shipments between the mainland and Hawaii, Guam, and Micronesia. The new surcharge will go into effect April 7.

Horizon Lines is the nation's leading domestic ocean shipping and integrated logistics company comprised of

two primary operating subsidiaries. Horizon Lines, LLC, operates a fleet of 21 U.S.-flag containerships and 5 port terminals linking the continental United States with Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Micronesia and Puerto Rico. Horizon Logistics, LLC, offers customized logistics solutions to shippers from a suite of transportation and distribution management services designed by Aero Logistics, information technology developed by Horizon Services Group and intermodal trucking and warehousing services provided by Sea-Logix. Horizon Lines, Inc. is based in Charlotte, NC, and trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol HRZ. *(Mark Rabago)*

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 19, 2001

### Police storm Garapan

It was no accident that the streets of Western Garapan were surprisingly scarce of skimpy-dressed women roaming around the area Friday night. The unusually quiet ambiance in the otherwise busy commercial district had officials suspecting that word may have already leaked out of a raid that was about to be conducted at Saipan's central business zone that night.

### Economic slowdown stops Dynasty from hooking up to CUC

TINIAN—Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino said Saturday that economic slowdown has rendered the management financially incapable to pay permit violation penalties imposed by the Coastal Resources Management. Tinian Dynasty Hotel Manager Tom Liu said their current revenue-generating capacity prevents the management from paying \$370,000 plus penalties for their failure to hook up to the Commonwealth Utilities' Corporation's 20-megawatt power plant on the island.

### Creation of CNMI portal eyed

The dream of an Internet-savvy CNMI community is now one step closer to fruition. The legislature is mulling to legislate a measure that envisions to make all government and private services and business accessible over the Internet. Under House Bill 12-337, the CNMI government is mandated to select a vendor that would establish, develop, operate and maintain and expand an Internet portal for the purpose of increasing electronic access and commerce among CNMI residents, businesses and government entities.

MARCH 19, 2002

### Gov't waits and see on FDM

Commonwealth officials are taking the position of wait-and-see, as developments continue to unfold in the lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity versus the U.S. military for its bombing activities on the Farallon de Mendenilla Island. And despite the court's ruling that the military bombings in the Farallon de Mendenilla violates a 1918 migratory bird treaty, military exercises on the island continues, with the Emergency Management Office warning the public—especially fishermen, tour operators and commercial pilots—to stay away from the area.

### Camacho vows massive promotions

Public Safety Commissioner Edward C. Camacho is bent on handing out widespread promotions to deserving DPS employees in May 2002, a plan that he envisions would motivate employees into strengthening their commitment to the tasks they were set out to do. In a first step toward this direction, Camacho, at his swearing-in ceremony last Thursday, officially upgraded his appointed deputy commissioners, Sandy Tudela and Franklin Babauta, into colonel ranks.

### Babauta: Competitiveness is the key

To be competitive in the emerging global marketplace, the CNMI has to do two things—educate its workforce and improve its physical infrastructures. Improved tourism infrastructure and higher value-for-money for the CNMI's tourists would also go a long way towards ensuring the competitiveness of the local tourist industry.

MARCH 19, 2003

### NMI awaits war orders

Gov. Juan N. Babauta said the CNMI is bracing for instructions, if any, coming from the U.S. government on the impending U.S.-led war against Iraq, following President Bush's 48-hour ultimatum to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his sons to either leave the embattled Middle Eastern country or face military attacks. The local chief executive made the statement yesterday almost immediately after viewing Bush's national address on television with Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, some Cabinet members and government employees present at the Governor's executive conference room in Capitol Hill.

### Wholesalers, retailers: No need for panic buying

With the 48-hour deadline for Iraqi president Saddam Hussein, the Saipan Association of Wholesalers and Distributors said yesterday it would convene in efforts to stabilize the supply of basic commodities in the Commonwealth to prevent panic buying, which is already happening in some countries. Association president Kitz Barja said the group would come out with plans on how to keep the flow of supplies into the Commonwealth going, even if a war between the United States and Iraq eventually erupts.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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## EDITORIAL

### There's a privacy deficit

Here's a 21st century twist on a conspiracy theorist's adage: Just because you're paranoid, that doesn't mean you're not being followed electronically. News outlets have brimmed with tales of Web sites, cable TV companies, Internet service providers and even the government quietly monitoring what you do and say. It's all supposedly for your own good, in ways large (protecting you from terrorist sleeper cells) or minute (showing you advertisements that might be less irritating). The monitoring may also serve to fatten someone else's wallet. In any case, it's galling how little the monitored masses have to say in the matter.

Most of the surveillance is being done by machines, with no human poring over the data collected. Take, for example, the British company Phorm, whose software observes virtually every site a person visits to compile a profile for advertisers. When the person arrives at a Web site using Phorm's services, his or her profile will determine which ads the site displays. Phorm says it retains no data on individuals, yet it doesn't ask Internet users' permission to watch their movements.

Meanwhile, advertiser-supported Web sites grab copious amounts of information about their visitors. Nor does the monitoring end at your computer. Cable operators and TiVo are taking data from their subscribers' set-top boxes to give advertisers and network executives an incredibly detailed picture of what their customers are watching—in TiVo's case, down to how many seconds of a commercial the viewer tolerates before skipping ahead. No individually identifiable data are collected, however, the companies insist.

One comforting thought about this kind of snooping is that there are ways to evade it. Browse the Web through an anonymous proxy. Trade in your TiVo for a VCR or a computer with digital video recording software. That's the critical difference between commercial services' monitoring efforts, which are well documented, and the federal government's domestic surveillance program, which remains sheathed in secrecy.

The government's scrutiny may prove to be vital to national security. Yet it would be easier to accept if the courts were peering over the Bush administration's shoulder, preventing the National Security Agency from indiscriminately gathering data on Internet use in the hope of finding a needle of suspicious activity within the haystack of mundane chatting and browsing. Otherwise, the notion that the NSA might be monitoring e-mails and page views isn't comforting; it's creepy.

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Jack and Jill  
went up the hill,  
To fetch a pail  
of water,  
Jack fell down  
and broke his crown,  
And Jill gave him  
painkillers in  
the water...



## How do I protect my ideas?

*The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!*

How often have you had a great idea for a book, a movie, or some other product or project only to find a few months later that someone else has launched and profited from your idea? How often have you had a great idea and ended up not acting on it because you didn't want someone else—a bigger company, perhaps—to get wind of the idea and steal it away under you? Or, how often have you had an idea and held off on moving forward with it because you didn't have the money to protect it? It happens all the time.

That fear, confusion and inaction happens to many of entrepreneurs, prompting the frequently asked question: "How Can I Protect My Ideas?" The traditional answer to that question involves issues of legal concepts, filing fees, and submission requirements.

But we're not going to dwell much on copyrights, trademarks and patents here, except to say that copyrights are used in relation to written works (Literary Works Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Sound Recordings—i.e. plays, manuscripts, movie scripts, music, poems, etc). Trademarks and service marks are for logos, images and unique lettering that identify your company, product or service (like the Nike "swoosh" or the McDonald's "M").

Patents are used for inventions and methods of production. You can get more details at the United States Patent and Trademark Office website at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), and at the US Copyright Office at [copyright.gov](http://copyright.gov)

I'm going to give you a slightly different answer that I think will be more helpful to your success. When people ask the question "How can I protect my ideas?", they usually have a few scenarios in mind. First, what they really want to know is: "How can I secure my position as the originator of the idea so that if I see it anywhere else I can sue the copycat and make some money?" Second, they are also saying: "I don't want to move forward with this idea and then have BigCompanyUSA see it, and beat me to the punch or run me out of the marketplace, and make the millions that should have been mine!" Third, there's another mindset that I discovered by way of this actual letter I received through my [hiphopentrepreneur.com](http://hiphopentrepreneur.com) website (along with my reply):

*Hi Walt, I want to start a record label and "rap" group under a certain name I came up with like for example G-unit records and G-unit as the group. Do I need to patent, trademark, or copyright the*

## THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to [walt@passionprofit.com](mailto:walt@passionprofit.com).

*names? What I want is to have exclusive rights to the name so that no one else can legally use them. I'm not really planning on selling my CDs but I just don't want anybody else able to use the name that I came up with. I would appreciate it if you could tell me which one I need to have done and where I can get this done.*

**ANSWER:** That's an interesting question, Joseph. What you need is to trademark your company and group name. The only tricky issue here is this: The purpose of a trademark or a service mark is to protect a name or logo under which you are trading or providing service—hence the names. The courts will recognize the true owner of the name or logo the person who proves he or she was first to use it in business trade or service. When you apply for a trademark or service mark, you'll typically have to provide some evidence that the mark is used on labels, packaging, etc. to show that you are in business. So, simply wanting to reserve the name to prevent others from using it is questionable.

As a related thought, however, I'd like to ask you your reason for simply holding the name to prevent others from using it. There are no real proprietary ideas in the universe, you know. There is probably someone somewhere right now thinking of using the same name that you came up with, trust me. Your job—in my opinion—is to use your talents to share something with the world. The universe rewards with wealth those who act on their ideas and offer some value to the world. It seems a bit of a hoarder mentality to attempt to deprive the world of your genius and uniqueness of your label/group name by sitting on it. Act on it, or let it go! Act on it, or release it to the universe for someone else to create something of value with it for the world. You cannot use a trademark to hoard its potential wealth and lock away the abundance that the name may hold. Neither spirit, nor law will support you on that.

### Legal Recourse

Patents, copyrights, trademarks and service marks are not protection in the sense that people wish. Having a copyright on a written idea does not stop someone else from having that idea, and does

See HOW on next page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

# What it means to be an American

A couple of months ago, I was elated to hear that our media company was selected to provide photography service for the group of returning WWII veterans who had fought in the Marianas and Iwo Jima, most of whom were returning for the first time in over six decades.

Well into their 80s, these WWII veterans were now retracing their steps and reliving fierce battles. As they visited the now hallowed battlefields, they recalled the confusion, fear, and chaos of war: the ear-splitting, ground-shaking sounds of heavy artillery exploding at all sides while bullets buzzed by their heads and anti-aircraft artillery rocked their airplanes, and the pain of experiencing the death of their friends and comrades under the enemies' unrelenting attack. For these valiant veterans, this journey served two purposes: to honor and pay homage to their brethren who died on the battlefield, and to bring closure to a war that undoubtedly changed each and every one of their lives forever.

Every veteran on this tour has a story to tell, a story which will ensure that future generations will never forget the horror of war and what the word "sacrifice" really means. Giving up meat on a Friday is not a sacrifice; risking or giving up your life for the greater good of humankind is. We can never repay these selfless soldiers of freedom for their sacrifice. But we can certainly work toward paying tribute to them by understanding and embracing American idealism...that freedom is not free, and that all of us, regardless of race or color or religion, are created equal.

I would so much like for our government leaders and our indigenous rights groups to imagine for just a few minutes what their lives would be like today had these heroic soldiers chosen not to fight, chosen to stay home, or immediately surrendered upon facing the enemy. What would life be like if the Chamorros and Carolinians were still being ruled by Japan's Imperial Army? Would the CNMI even be discussing minimum wage or federalization issues today? Would the CNMI have a set of local government leaders? Would we have an indigenous Governor? Clearly, we must accept that had it not been for these veterans, life would be much different today for all of us.

With all of this said, I am disappointed that the CNMI did not roll out the red carpet for our returning veterans. At the wreath ceremony attended by the returning veterans and held in honor of those whose names are enshrined at our American Memorial Park, I saw no government officials. I was told by a few House Representatives that they were never informed about their arrival, but my question is *why*? Who is responsible for informing the Governor's Office, the Senate, and the House? Certainly our public leaders would have been there had they known about the wreath ceremony, especially those who served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Thankfully, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Memorial Park staff and Jerry Facey were on hand; and PDI's Gordon Marciano gave them all an impressive tour of Saipan while Don Farrell did likewise on Tinian. Gordon should be the CNMI's official goodwill ambassador as every single person on the tour fell in love with his genuine warmth and Hafa Adai spirit. And they viewed Don Farrell as a CNMI natural treasure (as well as a walking encyclopedia).

While our CNMI government didn't do much to welcome our WWII veterans (again, because our public officials were not advised of the veterans coming to Saipan), Guam showered them with gracious hospitality and love. One of the highlights of the Guam tour was when Mayor Jose Terlaje and the grateful villagers of Yona threw a grand fiesta party with exciting entertainment and sumptuous local dishes. While the mayor and villagers held the festivities to honor the veterans and their families, the veterans appeared overwhelmed and humbled by this strong show of thanks and support. It reminded me of the CNMI's legendary warmth and hospitality which I have so often bragged about. Sadly, it was *in absentia* during this tour because our government officials were never informed about their arrival. Rather than stirring up a blame game and senseless finger-pointing, can we please learn from this communication meltdown and ensure that everyone is properly informed for future visits by WWII veterans? Perhaps MVA, the Governor's Office, and the media can work together to give our WWII veterans a proper and well-deserved welcome. I personally am willing to volunteer and serve in any welcoming committee for our WWII veterans. Yes, I know we are all busy trying to tackle the CNMI's problems and working extra hours to pay our CUC bills, but couldn't we take a little time out of our busy schedules to pay tribute to our war heroes, at least for a few hours?

I am inspired and in awe of each and every one of these WWII heroes. They have done so much—not only for our country, but for the entire world! In spite of everything, they still remain so humble. Perhaps humility is a result of seeing so much death and destruction at a young age. At 21, U.S. Marine James Smith swept on to Saipan's beaches amid hailing gunfire and artillery shelling. At 21, I was enjoying my full-time occupation of partying, occasionally attending classes I was enrolled in at NMC. At nearly the same age, S/Sgt. Paul Linden was flying bombing missions from Saipan to Tokyo while being attacked by Japanese fighter pilots and anti-aircraft fire from the ground. At 21, these soldiers engaged in mortal combat; at 21, I was playing Mortal Kombat on my Sega video game console. While I was fortunate to have matured enough to eventually take college studies more seriously, I think about all of our heroic soldiers who died on the battlefield and never got the chance

By **ED PROPST**

*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*Ed Propst is the publisher of MP Magazine and is the owner of Pacific Digital Media.*



to grow up and make the same silly mistakes I made (although I am sure they would have not messed up as many times as I have).

These few days spent with these veterans are something I will cherish forever. I now realize that the problems we face today are miniscule, seemingly irrelevant when we stack them against the problems that were faced by America's greatest generation. We squabble about political issues such as minimum wage increases or federalization of immigration and labor; at our veterans' finest hour, they were storming the sands of Saipan, Tinian, Iwo Jima, and the rest of the Pacific Theatre, fighting not only for the freedom of these islands, but for the entire world. During one of our tours on Guam, I asked a WWII veteran what it means to be an American. He paused for a few seconds and replied, "It means loving your country, and loving your countrymen too." I still get choked up by his response. I am also deeply moved by how humble these veterans are. Jim Smith told me that he and his comrades were mostly ordinary men thrown into extraordinary circumstances, and that our generation of today would respond with the same patriotism, courage, and honor for America. When I think of our brave men and women who serve in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other troubled places in the world, I wholeheartedly agree.

To my brothers and sisters in the CNMI, while we should embrace our cultures and traditions and keep them alive for future generations, we must also never forget what it means to be an American. Regardless of our race, color, or religion, let us all come together not only for the greater good of the CNMI, but to pay tribute to our courageous soldiers who fought for each and every one of us. Let us realize that no country is infallible or impervious to error. Let us realize that we can never move forward without looking backward. And finally, let us realize that we should follow in the footsteps of our veterans and remember to love our country and countrymen. For at the end of the day, we are all Americans, land of the free, home of the brave.

Thank you, *si yu'us ma'ase, olomwaay*, to all of our men and women in uniform, both past and present. I would most especially like to thank our brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives so that we can live in peace, and so that we all may pursue a life of prosperity and happiness. They are our true heroes, and we are forever indebted to them. May God bless them and their families and may we remember them every day in our prayers.

## HOW

*From Page 10*

not prevent someone from publishing the same book you have in mind. What those types of legal concepts do is give you legal recourse in the event of such infringement. It allows you to take someone to court to prove your case and either prevent them from using the idea any further in its current form, or to perhaps benefit financially from their success.

However, as I mentioned to Joseph, one of the requirements in proving a trademark infringement claim—a claim that someone else is using your trademark—is that you prove that you were actually engaged in a trade (business) using that mark before the other person or company.

In fact, in your application obtain a recognized trademark for your company, you must provide evidence of the mark in use (on products, labels, letter head, advertising, etc.)

### What are Ideas?

Ideas are the currency of your dreams. In much the same way that you exchange the currency called money for products in the marketplace, in this game called "financial success," you exchange your valuable ideas and talents with the world for money.

The truth is that you really don't cre-

ate ideas. When you get an inspiration for a book or website or toy or invention or store, you are not originating that idea in the absolute sense. You are, in effect, tuning into a frequency of thought—just a like a radio—that anyone else can tune into. Ideas are floating around in the atmosphere and someone in the Republic of Nauru can have the same idea at the same moment as someone in Ghana. There have been documented instances of research scientists on opposite sides of the world coming up with products and ideas simultaneously.

### Theft

Let me ask a few questions: Who owns the song *Blinded by the Light*? (non-rock fans be patient) Answer: Manfred Mann's Earth Band, even though it was written by Bruce Springsteen. Who owns the title "Queen of Soul"? Answer: Aretha Franklin, even though there were other great soul singers before her. Who owns the concept of "Overnight Delivery"? Answer: Federal Express, even though UPS, and the United Postal Service and DHL and Airborne all provide overnight delivery. Who owns the title "Richest Man"? Answer: Bill Gates, even though there are likely oil barons in Saudi Arabia who are wealthier.

An idea is not owned in the courts. It is not owned in the vaults of the first person who had the idea. It is not owned by the better person. No, an idea

is really "owned" in the minds of the consumer. In other words, you own an idea when the greatest number of people associate that idea with you.

The only way, therefore, to "own" an idea is to be the FIRST or BEST to get it out there, in the biggest way possible, and to occupy the mindshare of the population. The sooner you launch your idea and expose it to the world and attach your name/identity to it, therefore, the greater chance you have of being recognized as the owner in the public's collective mind. That way when people hear about "That Unique Idea" the first person they think about is YOU! That association is worth more in future sales, goodwill, and reputation than the actual legal ownership of a concept.

What this all means is even the courts recognize that simply having an idea first is not enough to secure your rights to that idea. Those who take action on those ideas and actually use them are recognized and rewarded as owners.

### Here are two more things to consider

While theft of ideas does occur, and I've personally known artists and writers whose ideas appear to have been appropriated by larger companies, it's been the trend for larger companies to partner with or buy out smaller, more innovative, trendsetting companies. In fact, a wise entrepreneur once told me

that the only reason to start a business should be to sell it. Individuals and small companies launch an idea, grow the business and then flip it by selling it to a larger company. It's not a bad strategy, and one that creates the financial freedom many entrepreneurs are really seeking.

The second thing to always remember, is that your idea—if it is truly yours—cannot be stolen from you. Following your passion means that you are bringing something "un-stealable" to the marketplace. As I always say:

"If you create and market a product or service through a business that is in alignment with your personality, capitalizes on your history, incorporates your experiences, harnesses your talents, optimizes your strengths, complements your weaknesses, honors your life's purpose, and moves you towards the conquest of your own fears, there is ABSOLUTELY NO WAY that anyone in this or any other universe can offer the same value that you do!"

And that, is the only guarantee you require to ensure that your ideas are protected! Your fear of an idea being stolen, and your reluctance to take the first step will, in all likelihood, allow another person, who already has the same idea, to get the jump on you!

SO GET MOVING!!! You really have no other option.

For more tips on acting on your ideas and creating a passion-centered life-

style, visit [www.passionprofit.com!](http://www.passionprofit.com!)

### SaipanLiving Update:

Visit the [SaipanLiving.com](http://SaipanLiving.com) website to see our growing list of actual questions being asked by people all over the world who want to know what life on Saipan is really like! Choose one to answer to help with our launch!

With your help, we can create some compelling content, get the site in the top ten, and show the world a broader picture of what life is like in our little piece of paradise, beyond the sensational headlines.

Email me your perspective at [questions@saipanliving.com](mailto:questions@saipanliving.com).

If you don't have an email account, you can fax it to my attention at 212 658 9232.

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!






*Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit [www.saipanpreneur.com](http://www.saipanpreneur.com) and [www.passionprofit.com](http://www.passionprofit.com).*



Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly clear with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼73°	▲80° ▼74°	▲80° ▼74°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼74
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲85 ▼75

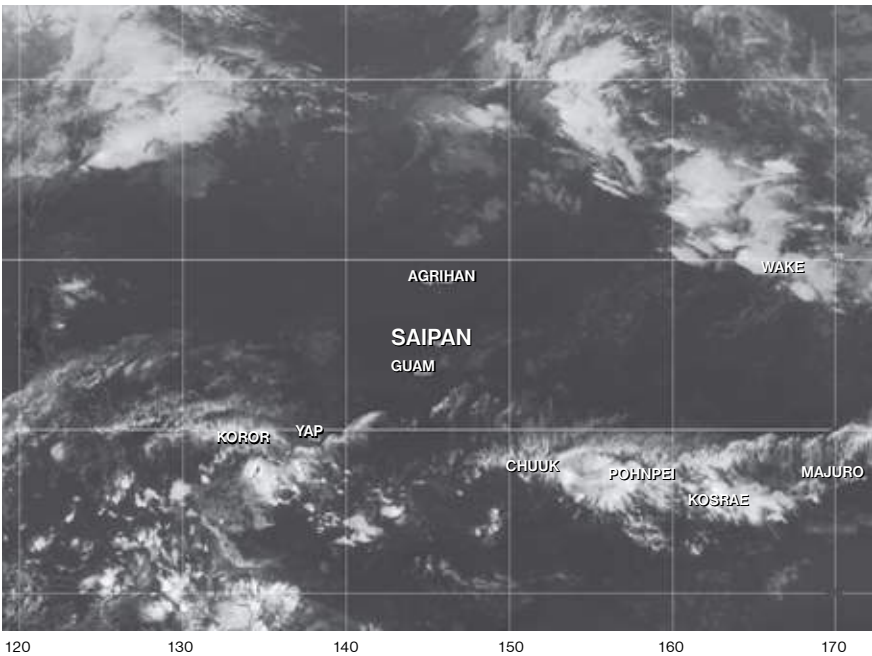
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲72 ▼63
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲54 ▼41
Hong Kong	Rain	▲81 ▼70
Honolulu	Showers	▲78 ▼81
London	Cloudy	▲50 ▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼52
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲78 ▼63
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼72
New York	Rain	▲52 ▼44
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲63 ▼42
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲42 ▼32
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼41
Rome	Cloudy	▲55 ▼41
Salem	Rain	▲51 ▼37
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲60 ▼47
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼33
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲60 ▼48
Washington, DC	Showers	▲66 ▼47

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:02AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
06:55AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:42PM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
05:54PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Strong high pressure far northeast of the discussion area is associated with low-level convergent winds located just north of the Wake Island. Scattered showers are found between 20N and 25N from 160E to 180. Also between 18N and 20N from 165E to 178E. This area includes Wake Island. A surface trough just west of Pohnpei extends from 9N155E to 4N157E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 150 miles of the trough. Trade-wind convergence just north of Kosrae is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 5N160E to 5N168E. Low-level convergent winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror between 5N and 8N from 133E to 137E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22AM	6:28PM
Thursday	6:21AM	6:28PM
Friday	6:21AM	6:28PM
Saturday	6:20AM	6:28PM
Sunday	6:19AM	6:28PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	04:22PM	04:27AM
Thursday	05:13PM	05:06AM
Friday	06:03PM	05:42AM
Saturday	06:51PM	06:18AM
Sunday	07:40PM	06:53AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:50pm 7:30pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:35am 3:05pm Daily NW 077 6:15pm 1:10am+1 Daily via Nagoya
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Manila</b> CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	<b>Manila-Saipan</b> CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 4:00am 7:35am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:50pm 9:35pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Bordallo opens fishery management meeting

GUAM—US Rep. Madeleine Bordallo opened the 140th meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council yesterday at the Hilton Hotel on Guam, with an overview of fishery management issues affecting the US Pacific islands.

Bordallo is a member of the US House Committee on Natural Resources and chairs the Subcommittee on Fisheries,

Wildlife and Oceans. She is also a member of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs and the Armed Services Committee.

Bordallo said she would continue to pursue full funding for the Western Pacific Community Demonstration Project Program, which provides direct grants to eligible communities to foster and promote traditional indigenous fishing practices.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to make \$500,000 in direct grants annually to eligible communities through this program. She noted the importance of the Guam Fisherman's Cooperative, which is a former recipient of these funds. However, the program has received no funding the past three years.

Bordallo commended the

Council for its outreach and education initiatives and noted her support for the Council's work with the communities to plan for military build-up on Guam and its potential impact on fisheries and the ecosystem.

Other key topics discussed during the presentation included Congressional initiatives to address illegal, unlicensed and unreported fishing and to further promote shark finning prohibitions.

Bordallo also noted initiatives to designate the Northern Islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as a national sanctuary or monument and said that the Council should play a significant role in these discussions.

Bordallo concluded her re-

marks by recognizing Guam's George Washington High School student Leana Peters, who won the Council's photo essay contest "Thru the Eyes of Our Elders to the Hands of Our Youth." Peters' photo essay featured her 81-year-old grandfather Juan Benavente using the traditional net fishing method known as talaya. The photo graces the covers of Chamoru and Refaluwasch lunar calendars, produced by the Council and available at [www.wpcouncil.org/education](http://www.wpcouncil.org/education).

The meeting continues today at the Hilton Guam with the Council considering a closed area for purse seiners around Guam, regulatory amendments to the Community Development

Program, and management of main Hawaiian Islands bottom-fish. The Council meeting then moves to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, tomorrow and Friday to address purse-seine and longline closed areas around CNMI; a purse-seine closed area around and longline program modifications for American Samoa; management of Hawaii swordfish fishery; permits for the squid fishery; and annual catch limits.

The Council is the policy-making agency for fisheries management in the offshore waters of the U.S. Pacific Islands. For more information, contact the Council at (808) 522-8220, [info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov](mailto:info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov) or [www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org). (PR)

## Youth stakeholders meeting to improve regional collaboration

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Youth sector specialists from around the Pacific are meeting at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community headquarters in Noumea this week to discuss how to improve regional coordination in the area of youth development.

Over the next three days (March 18–20), representatives of regional, international and civil society organizations, as well as donors and inter-governmental agencies, will share information on issues such as current and planned youth programs, gaps and duplication in their work, and support for Pacific regional youth organizations. They will also discuss a coordination and monitoring mechanism to improve youth development in the region.

SPC's Human Development Adviser for Youth, Rose Maebiru, says that work in the region's youth sector has increased significantly in recent years. However, she says little has been done to coordinate these efforts.

"This meeting is an opportunity to learn more about what regional and international youth stakeholders are doing. It's the first step in improving coordination of work in the sector," Maebiru says.

"Following the meeting, we hope to see organizations working in partnership to implement national youth priorities."

Participants at the meeting will be presented with the findings of a survey carried out by SPC last year to chart youth issues throughout the region. The Pacific Youth Mapping Exercise involved collecting data on ways in which SPC member governments, civil society organizations, youth groups and regional organizations were involving young people in their work.

Maebiru says the PYME is a starting point for discussion. Other development agencies will present their own review findings. Representatives of key youth organizations, including the Pacific Youth Council and the Commonwealth's Regional Youth Caucus, will participate in the discussions. The meeting will also enable participants to share current and proposed projects and activities.

"Once we've established proper networks and systems to improve how we share information, we will be able to better assess the impact of youth programs carried out in the region and improve the responses that we give," says Maebiru. "We hope that organizations can complement each other's work at country and regional levels through the sharing of expertise and resources." (SPC)

## IHG'S Low is PATA's Face of the Future

BANGKOK—The 2008 Pacific Asia Travel Association's Face of the Future is Kenneth Low, Director Strategy, Asia Pacific for the InterContinental Hotels Group.

Low will receive his honor during the PATA Foundation Gala Dinner at the Galle Face Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka on April 6.

Based in Singapore, Low, who just turned 35, is responsible for planning IHG's growth strategy in Asia Pacific, with a particular focus on the key markets of China, India and Japan.

He joined IHG in November 2005 from Abacus International, where he was head of Corporate Planning and Development.

Announcing the award, PATA President and CEO Peter de Jong said Low was a high achiever who had risen rapidly through the management ranks of two highly successful travel companies.

"We were also pleased that

along the way Kenneth found time to connect with PATA through our Young Tourism Professionals program," he said.

Low was chosen from an impressive shortlist of candidates from private and public sector organizations across the region.

"The caliber of entries gets stronger every year," said de Jong. "Last year we were delighted to recognize a young entrepreneur from Vietnam, now this year a strategic planner in Singapore."

"With the enormous pressures on human resources in our industry, it is reassuring to see exceptional young professionals like Kenneth Low pursuing careers in travel and tourism."

Low described the award as a great honor and a big surprise: "It has been a fantastic few years of association with PATA for me, not only as a participant at PATA events but also being involved in YTP program." (PATA)



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**CNMI!**  
and  
**HANMI**  
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A Magical Night  
of Ukulele  
with Jake  
Shimabukuro  
With a special performance by the  
**OLOMWAAY BAND!**

Saipan World Resort outdoor theatre  
7PM Thursday, March 27, 2008  
Adult - \$25  
Children under 12 - \$15  
Food & drinks will be on sale  
Tickets are available at Marianas Eye Institute,  
Century Hotel, Shell gas stations, Saipan Tribune.

Sponsored by:  
Marianas Eye Institute APC AQUA RESORT CLUB  
Saipan Tribune Tan Holdings  
MAR PAC Seafix Ken Real Estate Lease Ltd



# Business

## Fed primed to cut key interest rate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve is primed to aggressively cut a key interest rate even lower on Tuesday, racing to contain spreading financial fires that threaten an economic meltdown.

President Bush declared “we’re in challenging times” and huddled Monday with top economic officials - including Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke,

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Christopher Cox.

On Wall Street investors were still skittish. The Dow Jones industrials, in an erratic session, closed up 21.16 points, after having plunged nearly 200 points early in the day. Other stock indexes fell.

With the quick collapse of the

investment bank Bear Stearns, fears are mounting about whether other financial companies may fall. Many believe the country has already sunk into recession and all the problems—if not contained—will deepen and prolong the pain.

“The Fed is on high alert - something you don’t see but once every quarter century, maybe, in this case,

since the Great Depression. This is a very unusual period,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Economy.com.

That’s because the Fed is having to fight multiple battles at the same time: a housing collapse, a severe credit crunch and Wall Street turmoil that threatens the stability of the entire U.S. financial system.



Bernanke

## After Bear Stearns rescue, who’s next?

NEW YORK (AP)—With a deal in place to save Bear Stearns from bankruptcy, the company’s shares traded above the offer price Monday even as investors began turning a critical eye to other investment banks amid worries about how far the credit contagion could spread.

Despite the weekend agreement for JPMorgan Chase & Co. to buy Bear Stearns for a fraction of its value last week, worries that other banks had sizable exposure to troubled credit markets sent global markets tumbling. The uncertainty was evident on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrials sank by more than 100 points.

At Bear Stearns’ 47-story headquarters in midtown Manhattan, many employees said they still couldn’t believe that the nation’s fifth-largest investment bank is—essentially—out of business. Employees said there was no meeting

to inform employees about what was happening.

“It’s my first job out of school. I thought it was a big company—it would be good experience,” said Ki Byung, who works for a division of Bear Stearns. “Now after a couple of months something like this happens.”

Instead of making money, Bear Stearns employees trudged boxes of their personal belongings out of the investment bank while JPMorgan managers filed into it for the first time from that bank’s headquarters directly across the street. While no layoffs have been announced, analysts expect that they could be significant.

A complete collapse of Bear Stearns might have crushed the already-dwindling confidence in the global financial system, which has frozen up after last year’s troubles in the subprime mortgage market.

## Sustainable biofuels flight demo planned

HOUSTON—Continental Airlines, Boeing, and GE Aviation announced Monday plans to conduct a biofuels demonstration flight in the first half of 2009 in an effort to identify sustainable fuel solutions for the aviation industry. Continental is the first major U.S. carrier to announce plans to highlight technological advancements in sustainable biofuels that can help to further reduce carbon emissions.

The biofuel flight will use a Boeing Next-Generation 737 equipped with CFM International CFM56-7B engines. CFM is a 50/50 joint company

of General Electric Company and Snecma (SAFRAN Group). In the months leading up to the flight, Continental, Boeing and GE will work together and with an undisclosed fuel provider to identify sustainable fuel sources that don’t impact food crops, water resources or contribute to deforestation, and which can be produced in sufficient quantities to support a pre-flight test schedule that includes laboratory and ground-based jet engine performance testing to ensure compliance with stringent aviation fuel performance and safety requirements. (Continental)

## Stocks widely mixed on Bear Stearns news

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street ended a temperamental session widely mixed Monday after investors grappled with JPMorgan Chase & Co.’s government-backed buyout of the stricken investment bank Bear Stearns Cos.

The Dow Jones industrials recovered from an initial drop of nearly 200 points to finish up about 21 points. The broader Standard & Poor’s 500 and Nasdaq composite indexes ended

lower as investors bailed out of investment banks and small-cap stocks and fled instead to large companies apt to be reliable during a weak economy.

The Dow rose 21.16, or 0.18 percent, to 11,972.25, after falling nearly 200 and rising more than 100. The blue chip index was supported partially by JPMorgan, by far the biggest gainer among the 30 component stocks. JPMorgan rose \$3.77, or 10.3 percent, to \$40.31.



AP

A general view of the Stock exchange is seen in Frankfurt, Germany, Monday, March 17, 2008. European and Asian markets plunged and the dollar sank Monday after JPMorgan Chase said it would buy troubled U.S. investment bank Bear Stearns, signaling to investors the depths of the credit crisis.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Industrial production falls

WASHINGTON (AP)—Industrial output fell in February by the biggest amount in four months, providing yet another gloomy assessment of the economy’s health. The Federal Reserve said Monday that output at the nation’s factories, mines and utilities dropped by 0.5 percent in February, the biggest decline since a 0.6 percent fall last October. It was a far weaker reading than the slight increase of 0.1 percent that many analysts had been expecting. It served to underscore the severity of the current economic slowdown. Dan-

iel Meckstroth, chief economist for the Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI, said he believed that the manufacturing sector fell into a recession in October and the overall economy followed in December.

#### Delta pilots say no deal with Northwest

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta Air Lines’ pilots union has told company executives it can’t agree on seniority issues with its counterpart at Northwest Airlines, raising serious doubts about the prospect of a combination of the two companies

as Delta prepares to overhaul its operations. The disclosure was made Monday afternoon in a letter from the head of the pilots union at Delta, Lee Moak, to rank-and-file Delta pilots. Moak said the union will not “chase a transaction for transaction’s sake.”

The letter does not mention Northwest, but describes the union that Delta’s pilots had been negotiating with as the only one they were focused on talking with. Multiple officials close to the talks have said in recent months that the other company was Northwest Airlines Corp.

### STOCK Portfolio

#### ASIAN MARKETS

<b>AUSTRALIA</b> 5,167.40 Down 5.80 (-0.11%)	<b>HONG KONG</b> 20,840.92 Down 243.69 (-1.16%)	<b>JAKARTA</b> 2,274.19 Down 38.13 (-1.65%)
<b>TOKYO</b> 11,830.78 Down 43.27 (-0.37%)	<b>K. LUMPUR</b> 1,194.84 Down 6.51 (-0.54%)	<b>MANILA</b> 2,777.42 Down 16.26 (-0.58%)
<b>SEOUL</b> 1,579.96 Up 5.52 (+0.35%)	<b>BANGKOK</b> 578.39 Down 3.64 (-0.63%)	<b>SINGAPORE</b> 2,778.09 Down 14.66 (-0.52%)

#### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
 11,972.25  
 +0.18%

**NASDAQ**  
 2,177.01  
 -1.60%

**S&P**  
 1,276.60  
 -0.90%

#### MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0853
British Pound	0.4993
Canadian Dollar	0.9943
Chinese Renmbi	7.0854
Euro	0.6338
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7675
Indian Rupee	40.68
Indonesian Rupiah	9,275
Japanese Yen	97.13
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1785
New Zealand Dollar	1.2447
Philippine Peso	41.67
Singapore Dollar	1.3811
South Korean Won	1,016.55
Swiss Franc	0.9804
Taiwan Dollar	30.75
Thailand Baht	31.235

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press



# Nation

## Florida Dems abandon mail-in vote plan



**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)**—Facing strong op-

position, Florida Democrats on Monday abandoned plans to hold a do-over presidential primary with a mail-in vote and threw the delegate dispute into the lap of the national party.

While the decision by Florida Democrats left the state's 210 delegates in limbo, Democrats in Michigan moved closer to holding another contest on June 3. Legislative leaders reviewed a measure Monday that would set up a privately funded, state-administered do-over primary, The Associated Press learned.

In Florida, a frustrated Democratic Party chairwoman Karen L. Thurman sent a letter announcing the decision.

"A party-run primary or caucus has been ruled out, and it's simply not possible for the state to hold another election, even if the party were to pay for it," Thurman said. "... This doesn't mean that Democrats are giving up on Florida voters. It means that a solution will have to come from the DNC Rules & Bylaws Committee."

Members of Florida's congressional delegation unanimously opposed the plan, and

## Bill Clinton rejects criticism over race

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Former President Clinton on Monday called the notion that he unfairly criticized his wife's rival, Barack Obama, "a total myth and a mugging." Clinton had compared Obama's landslide victory in South Carolina's Jan. 26 primary to Jesse Jackson's wins in the state in 1984 and 1988.

Clinton was widely criticized for appearing to cast Obama as

little more than a black candidate popular in a state with a heavily black electorate. He was widely accused of fanning racial tensions.

"They made up a race story out of that," Clinton said of the news media, calling the story "a bizarre spin."

In an interview with ABC's "Good Morning America" broadcast Monday, Clinton said he had gotten a "bum rap"

from the news media.

He made similar comments on CNN's "American Morning," calling the notion that he had unfairly criticized Obama in South Carolina as "a total myth and a mugging."

While campaigning in South Carolina in January, Bill Clinton complained that Obama had put out a "hit job" on him. He didn't explain what that meant.

## Obama tells vets no lower drinking age

**SCRANTON, Pa. (AP)**—Democrat Barack Obama on Monday promised Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans help with their grievances - save one. "I know it drives you nuts. But I'm not going to lower the drinking age," the presidential candidate said.

Army veteran Ernest Johnson, 23, of Connecticut, said one of the things that peeved

him before he turned 21 was that he couldn't come home and drink a beer - even though he was old enough to serve in the armed services and die for his country.

Obama told Johnson he sympathized, but that setting the legal drinking age at 21 had helped reduce drunken driving incidents and should remain.

The Illinois senator was tap-

ing a round-table discussion with eight veterans that is to be broadcast by MTV on the fifth anniversary of the start of the Iraq war.

Howard Noel, 28, of New York City, told Obama he "looked at the military as a good thing" when he enlisted. But when he returned, he said he was scorned by friends and, for a while, was homeless.

Barack Obama expressed concern about the security of a mail-in vote organized so quickly. Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign expressed disappointment with Florida's decision.

"Today's announcement brings us no closer to counting the votes of the nearly 1.7 million people who voted in January," Clinton spokesman Phil Singer said. "We hope the Obama campaign shares

our belief that Florida's voters must be counted and cannot be disenfranchised."

Obama's campaign said it looked forward to an agreement on what to do about Florida.

## Report: NY governor admits to past affairs

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Gov. David Paterson, who took over the state's top job Monday after Eliot Spitzer resigned amid a prostitution scandal, has admitted he and his wife Michelle had affairs during a rough patch in their marriage several years ago, a newspaper reported.

Paterson told the Daily News that he maintained a relationship with another woman from 1999 until 2001. He and his wife eventually sought counseling and repaired their relationship.

The couple agreed to speak publicly about their marriage in response to rumors about Paterson's personal life that have been swirling in Albany since Spitzer resigned, the Daily News reported Monday on its Web site.

Paterson rose from the lieutenant governor's office after Spitzer resigned last week amid allegations that he hired a call girl from a high-priced escort service. It was a dramatic fall for Spitzer, who was elected with an overwhelming share of the vote and who had vowed to root out corruption at the state Capitol.

Federal prosecutors must still decide whether to pursue charges against Spitzer. The married father of three teenage girls was accused of spending tens of thousands of dollars on prostitutes - including one in Washington the night before Valentine's Day.

After his inauguration Monday, Paterson and his wife, Michelle, acknowledged the relationships but did not go into details.

"This was a marriage that appeared to be going sour at one point," Paterson told the Daily News. "But I went to counseling and we decided we wanted to make it work. Michelle is well aware of what went on."

Paterson said top government officials are bound to be under the microscope for their personal actions, especially considering the prostitution scandal.

"Like most marriages, you go through certain difficult periods," Michelle Paterson said. "What's important is for your kids to see you worked them out."



Paterson



### HIGH RISK

Members of various emergency services units remove debris from the site of the crane collapse on 2nd Ave. and 50th St. in Manhattan, New York Monday, March 17, 2008. They are part of New York's skyline: hundreds of spindly construction cranes like the one that toppled over the weekend. As the machines work furiously amid a supercharged building boom, experts say it's always a risk. Operating cranes in a city of 8.2 million people where apartments and offices are stacked so closely and on top of one another is especially tricky.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Ship's pilot charged in SF Bay oil spill

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—The pilot of a ship that spilled thousands of gallons of oil into San Francisco Bay last November was charged by federal prosecutors Monday with criminal negligence and breaking environmental laws. Capt. John Cota could face up to 18 months in jail and more than \$100,000 in fines if convicted of the misdemeanor charges, which include harming migrant birds protected by the government and violating the Clean Water Act. Cota was not taken into custody, according to court papers. Cota was at the helm of the container ship Cosco Busan when it struck a fender protecting a support tower beneath the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on Nov. 7. The ship emptied 53,000 gallons of oil into the fragile bay, killing thousands of birds and closing more than a dozen beaches.

#### Ga. landfill searched for missing couple

**JESUP, Ga. (AP)**—Investigators with cadaver dogs searched a southeast Georgia landfill Monday for a missing couple last seen two weeks at the marina where they lived and worked on Hilton Head Island, S.C. John and Elizabeth Calvert, who live part time on a yacht at the Harbour Town marina they lease and manage, were last seen March 3. Police think Dennis Ray Gerwing, a business associate of the couple who committed suicide last week, was the last person to see them. Authorities had combed through parts of the vast landfill in rural Wayne County on Saturday, but found nothing. The Beaufort County, S.C., sheriff's office has said only that a tip prompted the search 100 miles from the resort island near the Georgia-South Carolina border.

#### Hundreds hound shelter for seized dogs

**PHOENIX (AP)**—A frenzy of tiny-dog lovers has descended on an animal shelter that rescued hundreds of Chihuahuas from a filthy rural Arizona home, with some potential owners getting into shoving matches and others calling from around the globe. The nearly 800 small dogs, mostly Chihuahuas, and 36 parrots were found in a large mobile home northwest of Tucson last week. All that were old enough and healthy enough to leave the shelter were adopted by Monday, authorities said. When news spread Thursday of the dog rescue, hundreds of people packed into the Humane Society of Southern Arizona in hopes of adopting the dogs, spokeswoman Jenny Rose said. Tempers flared, and a few people got into shoving matches, Rose said. The sheriff's department cleared everyone out, and the shelter closed for the day. The next day, Rose said, 500 people lined up to get the dogs, which included terriers, Pomeranians, Chinese crested and Lhasa apsos. The shelter passed out numbers and had everyone come back in groups of 100 each day.

## Man says ricin belonged to his brother

**SAN DIEGO (AP)**—The man at the center of a ricin scare at a Las Vegas motel says he never had any intention of hurting anyone with the deadly biological agent, his brother told The Associated Press.

Roger Bergendorff, who finally regained consciousness last week after almost a month of hospitalization, possessed the ricin powder found in his motel room in February and believes he was contaminated by it, said Erich Bergendorff, who talked to his brother on the phone Sunday.

"He just confirmed that it was not intended for anybody," Erich Bergendorff said in a telephone interview from his home north of San Diego in Escondido. "It was something that would be used for his own purposes, for self-defense."

Roger Bergendorff, 57, was upgraded from critical to fair condition Monday at Spring Valley Medical Center.

Erich Bergendorff said his brother was cooperating with investigators who questioned him at the hospital Friday. Las Vegas police referred questions to the FBI, which declined to comment Monday.

Erich Bergendorff said Sunday's conversation was his first with Roger since he regained consciousness. He said his brother told him the ricin powder was easy to make but wasn't clear on whether he or someone else made it.

"He did talk as though he just had it there; he was almost kind of casual about it," Erich Bergendorff said. "... He did mention the ricin and seemed to say something like, 'Gee, it sure worked on me.'"

Ricin can be lethal in amounts the size of the head of a pin. It has no antidote and is legal only for cancer research.

In court documents, police said "a large quantity" of ricin was in vials found in Roger Bergendorff's hotel room. He summoned an ambulance Feb. 14, complaining of respiratory distress, but the ricin wasn't discovered until a cousin went to the hotel to pick up his belongings two weeks later.

Police say they also found firearms in the room, along with castor beans—from which ricin is derived—and four "anarchists cookbooks" in the room, marked at sections describing how to make ricin.



# Asia

## Tibet unrest sparks world reaction

**LONDON** (AP)—China's reputation is at stake in the confrontation over Tibet, a senior British diplomat said Monday, the strongest reaction from a Western government so far to last week's violence.

Russia, in contrast, voiced support for China, calling its relations with the Dalai Lama an internal matter and saying efforts to boycott this summer's Beijing Olympics are "unacceptable."

"Russia has repeatedly declared that it views Tibet as an inalienable part of China, and considers the resolution of relations with the Dalai Lama to be an internal matter of the People's Republic of China," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Mark Malloch-Brown, Britain's minister for Asia, Africa and the U.N., said Western governments are reminding China that its handling of the unrest could damage its international standing.

"This is a China engaged with the world which is using the Olympics to demonstrate a new openness and it risks all of that collapsing in on it if it is seen as being the enforcer of a crackdown on Tibetans," he told British Broadcasting Corp. television.

Demonstrators have rallied in support of independence-minded Tibetans in several cities in Europe, Asia and Australia.

In Sydney, Australia, on Tuesday, protesters burned Chinese flags and had minor scuffles with police outside the Chinese consulate in Australia's largest city.



A Tibetan wearing a mask with anti-slogan, participates during a rally against Chinese government's policy in front of Chinese embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

### Wen denounces supporters of Dalai Lama as instigators

**BEIJING** (AP)—China's premier denounced the Dalai Lama's supporters as instigators of violent anti-Chinese riots in Tibet's capital, taking a hard stance Tuesday as a deadline for protesters to turn themselves in passed without any apparent surrenders.

Premier Wen Jiabao's remarks were the highest-level response to last week's rampage in Lhasa, which the government has said killed 16 people and injured dozens. The Dalai Lama's government-in-exile in India has said that 80 Tibetans were killed.

"There is ample fact—and we also have plenty of evidence—proving that this incident was organized, premeditated, masterminded and incited by the Dalai clique," Wen told reporters at a news conference held at the end of China's national legislative meeting. He did not give any details.

"This has all the more revealed that the consistent claims made by the Dalai clique that they pursue not independence but peaceful dialogue are nothing but lies," he said.

He also dismissed claims by the exiled Dalai Lama that there was "cultural genocide" taking place in his homeland. The revered spiritual leader fled in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

## Afghan bomb kills 3 NATO soldiers

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** (AP)—A suicide car bomber attacked a group of international troops at a bazaar in southern Afghanistan on Monday, killing three NATO soldiers and four Afghans, officials said.

Two Danish troops, a Czech special forces soldier and an Afghan translator were killed in the attack in the Gereshk district of Helmand province.

Provincial police Chief Mohammad Hussein Andiwai said the suicide car bomb killed three Afghan civilians

and wounded seven others.

Four soldiers also were wounded in the attack, a NATO spokesman said on condition of anonymity, citing policy.

A Czech soldier was transported to an American hospital in Kandahar with serious injuries and was being kept in a medically induced coma, said Lt. Gen. Vlastimil Picek, Czech military chief of general staff.

Picek said a second Czech soldier was not seriously injured and likely would be released soon.

The Czech troops were escorting Danish soldiers on their way to a reconstruction project when the bomb exploded, Picek said.

"It is incredibly tragic that our fight for peace and democracy again should cost human lives," said Pia Kjaersgaard, leader of the nationalist and populist Danish People's Party, which is a key government ally.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Denmark had no plans to pull out from Afghanistan.

## Musharraf foes convene new parliament

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan** (AP)—Lawmakers wearing lapel pins with pictures of slain former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto vowed a new dawn for democracy Monday as Pakistan's parliament convened for the first time since opponents of the president swept to victory in last month's elections.

Legislative leaders promised to challenge U.S.-backed President Pervez Musharraf

by slashing his powers and reviewing his counterterrorism policies.

But the president's foes face challenges themselves, including dealing with high inflation and other economic troubles, grappling with increased Islamic militancy - and resolving the ticklish question of who should be prime minister.

Jubilant legislators took their seats in the National Assembly

as an imam's Quran recitation echoed through the hall. Female politicians—74 of them—tightened their Muslim head scarves.

"No assembly has ever been given such a clear mandate," said Javed Hashmi, a party lieutenant of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was ousted by Musharraf in a 1999 military coup and sent into exile until last November.

# World

## Ireland urges St. Patrick's restraint

**DUBLIN, Ireland** (AP)—Irish politicians and police urged the nation Monday to have fun during St. Patrick's Day festivities - but not too much fun.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern called on celebrants to drink moderately "and not to get behind the wheel after doing it."

"There's no reason (why) people can't enjoy themselves and be part of the celebrations without going over the top," Ahern said in Washington, where he was presenting President Bush with a ceremonial bowl of shamrocks.

Police said a record 650,000 revelers gathered up to 20 deep on the sidewalks of central Dublin for the annual parade, the biggest event in Ireland's five-day St. Patrick's Festival. Many brought ladders or balanced precariously on security fences, garbage bins and statues to see the spectacle, which was led by a mammoth float of St. Patrick on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Police vowed to crack down harder than in previous years on rowdiness and drunken driving, which typically follow the parades in Dublin and a half-dozen other cities. Authorities said four teenagers were arrested during the parade and will probably face charges of disorderly behavior and assaulting police officers.

## France buries last WWI vet

**PARIS** (AP)—France unfurled its military majesty Monday in honor of its last World War I veteran, who died last week at 110, and all the other Frenchmen who fought in the conflict.

Flags fell to half-staff and the president unveiled a plaque at the gold-domed edifice where Napoleon is buried to honor Lazare Ponticelli and the 8.4 million other Frenchmen who served in a war that tore Europe apart.

The day of national commemoration was ordered by President Nicolas Sarkozy, who wants younger generations to remember the sacrifices of "les poilus"—an affectionate nickname meaning hairy or tough that France uses for its WWI veterans.

"Never again will anyone tell their grandchildren or great-grandchildren about the terrible life of the trenches," Sarkozy said. "No more, will anyone hear the old 'poilu' tell his grandchildren or great-grandchildren: 'Never make war again.'"

## Female suicide bomber kills 43 persons in Iraq

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—A female suicide bomber struck Shiite worshippers in the holy city of Karbala on Monday, an official and a witness said, killing at least 43 people and leaving pools of blood on the street leading to one of Iraq's most revered mosques.

The blast was the deadliest in a series of attacks that left at least 72 Iraqis dead, including six youths killed when mortar rounds slammed into a soccer field in eastern Baghdad.

Two U.S. soldiers also were killed Monday in a roadside bombing north of Baghdad, bringing the American death toll closer to 4,000 as the U.S.-led war enters its sixth year. At least 3,990 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The violence marred overlapping trips by Vice President Dick Cheney and Sen. John McCain to Baghdad. Their visits were aimed at touting recent security gains and stressing Washington's long-term commitment to

fighting insurgents in Iraq.

The U.S. Embassy and military issued a joint statement blaming al-Qaida in Iraq for the Karbala attack.

The bomber struck after the worshippers had gathered at a sacred historical site about half a mile from the golden domed shrine of Imam Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad who was killed in a seventh-century battle.

A police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information, said the attacker was a woman—as did a witness.

The U.S. military described the attack as a suicide operation but put the casualty toll at 40 Iraqis killed and 65 wounded. The U.S. statement said the identity of the bomber remained unknown.

Brig. Gen. Raed Shakir Jawdat, Karbala's police chief, said 43 people were killed and 73 wounded. He denied it was a suicide attack, saying a bomb had been planted in the area. The discrepancies could not immediately be resolved.



A U.N. vehicle burns, as French NATO peacekeeping troops, background, are seen during clashes in the Serb-dominated part of the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo, Monday, March 17, 2008.

## Peacekeepers battle with Serbs in Kosovo

**KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Kosovo** (AP)—Serb demonstrators attacked international peacekeepers with rocks, grenades and Molotov cocktails Monday, setting off the worst violence in Kosovo since it declared independence from Serbia last month.

The Serbs traded gunfire with U.N. and NATO forces in hours of clashes that wounded at least 63 U.N. and NATO forces and 70 protesters outside a U.N. courthouse.

The clashes began when the U.N. stormed the courthouse in the divided northern town of Kosovska Mitrovica just before dawn to pull out protesters who had occupied it for three days to protest

Kosovo's independence.

Hundreds of Serbs swarmed the area, blocking three red-and-white U.N. police vans as they moved through the angry crowd and ordering the officers to open the doors.

About half of the 53 arrested Serbs went free. The rest were taken out in armored vehicles and were released by the U.N. after questioning.

Danish military police said they came under fire from protesters and shot back as they evacuated wounded officers. Machine-gun bursts could be heard until midday, although it was not clear who was firing. At least one U.N. vehicle and one NATO truck were set ablaze.



## Campus Life

# New tactics confront meaner bullying

By SEEMA MEHTA  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**LOS ANGELES**—Gizelle Studevent was a 13-year-old eighth-grader at prestigious La Jolla Country Day School in suburban San Diego when the harassment began. She returned from a basketball tournament to find an unsigned note in her suitcase: Addressed to “Senorita,” it mocked the girl’s skills on the court and suggested she go home to Mexico.

Over more than two years, an anonymous band of bullies tormented Gizelle. Their acts grew increasingly cruel—on the Internet, in notes and around school. Finally, she transferred.

“I would go home and cry every day,” said Gizelle, now a junior at nearby private Bishops School. “It was horrible. The scary thing for me was, what was next? What was going to happen?”

Bullying—once largely restricted to stolen lunch money or hallway shoving that was taken somewhat lightly—has grown increasingly serious, officials, parents and students say.

In 2005, 28 percent of students age 12 to 18 reported being bullied in the



**LOS ANGELES TIMES**  
Gizelle Studevent, center, walks with teammates Alyssa Morgosh, left, and Yessica Palmer, after basketball practice at Bishops School in La Jolla, Calif.

previous six months—double the figure from four years earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. The true figure is almost certainly higher; experts believe underreporting is rampant.

The consequences can be devastating and even deadly, as in the slaying of 15-year-old Lawrence King at an Oxnard middle school. The teenager was shot in the head Feb. 12 in a classroom after being harassed by some classmates when he disclosed that he was gay.

State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Calif., who pushed through legislation that added new protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender, said educators must act immediately to stop the first aggressive acts. Allowing this behavior to go unchallenged creates an environment in which it is seen as acceptable, allowing it to escalate, she said.

“They need to remove people that are doing this and deal with them and not turn a blind eye,” Kuehl said. “These are not just youthful high jinks; these are dangerous situations.”

Victims of bullying are at greater risk than their peers of skipping school, dropping out, getting lower grades and taking weapons weapon to campus. The abuse can lead them to change their daily behavior—they are more likely to

avoid certain parts of campus, such as restrooms or the cafeteria. Some become introverted or depressed.

Educators are increasingly weighing in, trying to change schools’ culture so that bullying becomes unacceptable among students.

The Los Angeles Unified School District trains teachers about cyberbullying and warns parents about its dangers. New programs to teach children respect for one another began this school year at Roman Catholic schools in Riverside and San Bernardino counties and at public schools in Orange County.

Experts insist more can be done. Because administrators face many obstacles in punishing students during off-campus activities, school violence expert Derek Randel suggests that schools require students who participate in extracurricular activities to sign pledges that specifically ban online bullying. Schools have used such contracts to curb student drinking.

Anonymous ways for students to report harassment, including telephone hot lines, might allow students to alert adults, without fear of retribution, when they or their friends are being bullied, he said.

Increased supervision in cafeterias, locker rooms and hallways is also key.



### NMC NURSING CLUB

Left, the NMC Nursing Club went to Tinian for a tour of the Tinian Health Clinic and provided free health screening (BMI, blood glucose and blood pressure check, health teaching) for the people in Tinian on March 14-15, 2008. The Tinian Mayor’s Office Community Outreach Program conducts a regular walkathon every Saturday morning at Taga Beach. Club members are shown here with their instructor, John Cox, during the visit to the Tinian Health Center on March 14, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### UNDERWATER TREAT

Bottom, Tinian Elementary School students who participated in the 5th Annual Chamorro Language Competition held in Guam on March 11 are treated to a visit to Underwater World after winning several medals in the competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Members of the NMC Nursing Club pose with the nurses of the Tinian Health Center and people from the Community Outreach Program under the Tinian Mayor’s Office at Taga Beach, March 15, 2008, after doing a free health screening (BMI, blood glucose and blood pressure checks and health teaching) for the Tinian community.





## Life &amp; Style

## Mills awarded \$48.6M from McCartney

By JILL LAWLESS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Money may not buy her love, but Paul McCartney's ex sure has a lot more of it now. One of Britain's bitterest divorces reached a settlement Monday when Heather Mills was awarded \$48.6 million - an enormous sum, but a fraction of what she sought and a sliver of the former Beatle's \$800 million fortune.

Mills declared herself "very, very, very pleased" with a payout that amounted to about \$34,000 for each day of her four-year marriage. But some legal experts were surprised the former model, who has been widely portrayed in the British media as a gold-digger, did not get more.

"In the scheme of things, it's quite surprisingly low," said Patricia Hollings, a divorce specialist with London law firm Finers Stephens Innocent. "It is only offering her about 6 percent of his assets. In terms of high-wealth cases it's very low."

A Family Court judge awarded Mills a lump sum of \$33 million, plus the assets she currently holds, worth \$15.6 million. Mills had sought almost \$250 million, according to a summary of the ruling; McCartney had offered \$31.6 million, including Mills' own assets.

The settlement was at the low end of many experts' estimates, which varied between \$50 million and \$100 million. The brevity of the marriage, and the fact most of the former Beatle's fortune was made before he met Mills were factors considered by the judge.

Mills, 40, raised eyebrows by firing her legal team late last



Heather Mills gives a statement to the media, as she leaves the Royal Courts of Justice after making a statement to the press in London, Monday, March 17, 2008.

year and representing herself in court, but legal experts said that was unlikely to have been a factor in the award.

"I don't regret representing myself," Mills said outside court. "I'm just glad it's over."

McCartney, 65, left after the ruling without saying a word. But Mills emerged from the three-hour private hearing for an impromptu news conference on the courthouse steps - railing against McCartney's lawyer, accusing her ex of underestimating his wealth and declaring the settlement had secured her future and that of her 4-year-old daughter, Beatrice.

"All of you that have re-

searched know that it was always going to be a figure between 20 and 30 million" pounds, said a visibly agitated Mills. "Paul was offering a lot less than that ... So we're very, very, very pleased."

McCartney also was ordered to pay \$70,000 a year for his daughter, and to pay for the child's nanny and school fees.

Mills said that was a paltry amount. "She's obviously meant to travel B class while her father travels A class," she said.

Mills said she would not appeal the settlement, but would challenge the judge's decision to publish his full ruling, saying such details as where her daugh-

ter goes to school could compromise the child's security.

Mills also criticized McCartney's lawyer, Fiona Shackleton, who is well known for representing Prince Charles in his divorce from Princess Diana.

"She has called me many, many names before even meeting me when I was in a wheelchair," said Mills, whose own legal team, in an ironic twist, was led by Princess Diana's divorce lawyer until she fired them in November.

Mills, whose left leg was amputated below the knee after a 1993 motorcycle accident, used the ad-hoc news conference to extol her credentials as a cham-

pion of charity. She said she had saved \$1.2 million by representing herself in court, money "which could quite easily go to charity."

She did not say which charity it might go to, though, or how much she would donate.

Mills' jackpot does not rank with the most expensive celebrity divorces. Basketball star Michael Jordan and singer-songwriter Neil Diamond both had to pay out about \$150 million to their ex-wives, according to Forbes magazine.

British divorce settlements are generally lower than U.S. ones. But Mills' payout is only about half the biggest contested divorce settlement in British history - \$90 million that insurance tycoon John Charman was ordered to pay his wife of almost 30 years in 2006.

Geraldine Morris, a lawyer and editor with LexisNexis Butterworths Family Law Service, said the judge had probably taken into account the relative brevity of the Mills-McCartney union.

"Whilst Sir Paul McCartney's wealth is substantial, the majority of his assets where acquired prior to the marriage and in that regard the case differs substantially from the case of Charman ... where the family wealth was built up during a very lengthy marriage," Morris said.

McCartney and Mills married at an Irish castle in June 2002, four years after the death from cancer of McCartney's first wife, Linda.

The sexagenarian music legend and the thirtysomething charity campaigner were instant tabloid fodder.

Even as they wed, there were reports the former Beatle's adult

children, who include the fashion designer Stella McCartney, disapproved of their new stepmother and were suspicious of her motivations for marrying McCartney.

The couple insisted they were in love, and McCartney said they had not signed a prenuptial agreement.

Their daughter, Beatrice, was born the following year, but there were soon reports of trouble in the union. Mills and McCartney separated in April 2006 and McCartney later filed for divorce, alleging "unreasonable behavior" by his wife.

The couple went to court last month to decide on Mills' share of his fortune, which had been estimated at as much as \$1.6 billion.

Judge Hugh Bennett, however, found that McCartney's total worth, including business assets, was about \$800 million.

When Mills and McCartney separated, they insisted the split was "amicable" and said "both of us still care about each other very much."

The show of unity did not last long. Last year, Mills claimed in interviews that McCartney had failed to protect her and their daughter from slander, death threats and other abuse, and accused the media of persecuting her. In November, Mills said she had been "treated worse than a murderer or a pedophile," despite years of work for land mine victims and animal welfare charities.

Mills became a hate figure for the British press. In tabloid headlines, McCartney was known as "Macca." She was "Lady Mucca."

Now that the case is over, Mills implored the media to just let it be.

## 1 in 4 teen girls has an STD, study finds

By STEPHANIE DESMON  
© 2008, THE BALTIMORE SUN

About 1 in 4 teenage girls in the United States—and nearly half of black girls—has at least one sexually transmitted disease, according to a study released Tuesday, providing the first national snapshot of infection rates among this age group.

Those numbers translate into an estimated 3.2 million adolescent females infected with one of the four most common STDs—many of whom may not even know they have a disease or that they are passing it to their sex partners.

"What we found is alarming," said Dr. Sara Forhan, a researcher with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the study's lead author. "This means that far too many young women are at risk for the serious health effects of untreated STDs, including infertility and cervical cancer."

The study's authors analyzed data on 838 girls between ages 14 and 19 who participated in the 2003-04 National Health and Nutrition Exam-

ination Survey, an annual study that assesses a broad range of health issues. For the analysis, the teens were tested for human papillomavirus (HPV), chlamydia, trichomoniasis and herpes. By far, the most common sexually transmitted disease was HPV. Of those infected, 15 percent had more than one STD.

"It shows that what people have always suspected is true," said Dr. Emily J. Erbelding, an infectious-diseases specialist at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. "Sexually transmitted infections have been called a hidden epidemic, because a lot of these conditions are going to be asymptomatic when they're diagnosed, but they're highly common."

The overall figures could be slightly higher, because other sexually transmitted diseases—syphilis, HIV and gonorrhea—were not included in the study, although experts say the prevalence is low for those infections among adolescents. The study did not include teenage boys.

The paper was being presented this week at a CDC conference on STD prevention in Chicago.

Forhan said she was surprised to see how readily the risk to young women appears. Of those in the study who said they had one sexual partner in their lifetime, the prevalence of STDs was 20 percent, she said.

While parents may be surprised by the study,

it's a reflection of what doctors have been seeing in their practices in recent years, said Dr. Ligia Peralta, chief of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at the University of Maryland Hospital for Children in Baltimore. In a small study done among girls at in her university clinic in 2000, primarily black teens, 90 percent of the sexually active teens had HPV.

She called the CDC study "critical information for parents" and encouraged them to use this knowledge to be sure their daughters are being properly screened and taught about protection and prevention. She said parents need to know that the average age of a girl's first sexual intercourse is 15.

"Parents do not come with a manual to know exactly how to discuss this with their kids," she said. "This is the opportunity to do it. You just open up the door for communication." She said doctors also are there to have these conversations with teenage girls.

There are 19 million sexually transmitted diseases in the United States—costing the health-care system \$15 billion a year—and almost half occur among the 14-to-25 age group, said Dr. Kevin Fenton, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. CDC officials called sexually transmitted diseases a public health epidemic and said efforts must be made to improve screening, education and other

prevention strategies for sexually active teens.

"While the burden of STD is significant, it doesn't have to be," said Dr. John Douglas, director of the CDC's division of STD prevention.

He said the report highlighted "extraordinary racial disparities" among those with sexually transmitted diseases. Blacks make up 13 percent of the population, but make up 46 percent of the chlamydia cases, for example.

The higher rates could be because of limited access to health care, which may result in delays in seeking care or in fewer visits to doctors for screening, he said.

The CDC recommends that girls and women between ages 11 and 26 be vaccinated against HPV.

The CDC also recommends annual chlamydia screenings for sexually active women younger than 25. The symptoms often are silent, but left untreated, it can cause irreversible damage, particularly to fertility.

Erbelding, at Bayview, said the results of the study should remind doctors and parents that girls as young as middle school age need to be prepared for all that comes with becoming sexually active.

"If their kids are going to be armed with the tools to protect themselves from pregnancy and STDs, the discussion needs to start before age 14," she said.



## Spears must pay \$375,000 for K-Fed fees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears was ordered by a court commissioner Monday to pay ex-husband Kevin Federline \$375,000 to cover his attorney fees in their child-custody dispute. Mark Vincent Kaplan, Federline's lead attorney, had asked for nearly \$500,000.

Commissioner Scott Gordon issued the order in response to arguments presented last week.

Spears' attorney Stacy Phillips argued that Kaplan was overbilling and that Federline can pay his own legal bills, but Gordon wrote that Spears' actions led to a great majority of the litigation and delays in the case.

Meanwhile, Spears' friend Sam Lutfi agreed to stay away from the pop star for at least another month, delaying a hearing that could have made a restraining order against him permanent.

Lutfi and conservators for Spears' estate agreed to have the restraining order extended for 30 days, Lutfi spokesman Michael Sands said Sunday.

"There is an agreement between Sam Lutfi and the conservatorship for the next 30 days," Sands said. "Both parties are happy and will continue to work together to further resolve any issues that may have come up in the past."

A judge was expected to approve the agreement Monday.

Phone messages and e-mails to lawyers for Spears, 26, and her estate co-conservators, which include her father, weren't immediately returned.

A Superior Court commissioner last month ordered Lutfi to stay 250 yards from Spears and her home.

Spears' mother, Lynne, requested the order based on allegations that Lutfi—Spears' frequent companion and sometime manager—had held the singer hostage in her own home, drugged her and taken over her finances.

Spears' father, James, was named one of two co-conservators of her estate after the singer was hospitalized twice in January. The conservatorship has been extended until July 31.

Conservatorships are granted for people deemed unable to take care of themselves or their affairs.

Before her hospitalization, Spears had shown increasingly erratic behavior. She shaved her head, was seen in public without underwear, ran over a celebrity photographer's foot and attacked a vehicle with an umbrella.

# Diddy denies LA Times' Tupac story

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs has denied a report by the *Los Angeles Times* that his associates were responsible for the 1994 robbery and shooting of Tupac Shakur at a New York recording studio, and that he knew about the attack in advance.

"The story is a lie," the hip-hop mogul said in a statement Monday. "It is beyond ridiculous and completely false. Neither (the late rapper Notorious B.I.G.) nor I had any knowledge of any attack before, during or after it happened. ... I am shocked that the *Los Angeles Times* would be so irresponsible as to publish such a baseless and completely untrue story."

The 1994 shooting triggered the celebrated feud between East and West Coast rappers that led to the killings of Shakur and B.I.G.

The *Times* said its story was based on FBI records, interviews with people at the scene of the 1994 shooting, and statements to the FBI by an informant. None of the sources was named. The story says associates hoping to curry favor with Combs—who was overseeing B.I.G.'s white-hot career at the time—lured Shakur to the studio because of his disrespect toward them.

The story said that talent manager James Rosemond and promoter James Sabatino arranged the assault. They and Combs declined to be interviewed for the story, which appeared on the *Los Angeles Times* Web site but



Sean "Diddy" Combs, left, and Dr. Dre arrive backstage at the Pussycat Dolls by Robin Antin fashion show during Mercedes Benz fashion week in Culver City, Calif., Thursday, March 13, 2008. AP

not in its paper publication.

Rosemond called the story a "libelous piece of garbage."

"In the past 14 years, I have not even been questioned by law enforcement with regard to the assault of Tupac Shakur, let alone brought up on charges," he said in

a statement. "Chuck Philips, the writer ... has reached a new low by employing fourth-hand information from desperate jailhouse informants along with ancient FBI reports to create this fabrication. I simply ask for all rap fans and fans of Tupac to analyze this

fiction for what it is."

The story, written by Chuck Philips, was the first investigative report published as a Web exclusive, said Meredith Artley, editor of LATimes.com.

"This piece was perfect for the Web," Artley said. "The

Web audience skews younger. We had all these great multimedia elements, and we said we really don't need to wait to fit this in the paper."

A "smaller version" of the story may still run in the paper, she said.

## Kelly Monaco has some pieces of 'Dancing' wisdom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kelly Monaco has some advice for the latest crop of celebs waltzing into the "Dancing With the Stars" ballroom.

The soap star and first-season champion recently told *The Associated Press* on the set of ABC's "General Hospital" that she thinks the sixth-season participants should "put 'Extra' and

'TMZ' ... aside. They're there to have fun and learn how to dance. It should be something really personal."

Monaco, who's played Sam McCall on "General Hospital" since 2003, won the first season of the competition in 2005—and remains the show's only female champion. The voting process relies

on both viewers and judges.

She lost to runner-up John O'Hurley during a 90-minute "dance-off" rematch that was determined solely by viewer votes.

"I'm just happy I did it when I did it," Monaco said. "Back then, I think there was some innocence in the process. It wasn't too skewed or manipu-

lated. The downside now is that contestants are going in with this scheme of what the show can and can't do to build a career. I'm glad I wasn't part of that chaos."

Monaco isn't sure if she'd return to the "Dancing With the Stars" ballroom for an all-stars season.

"I don't know," she said. "It

was really, really, really tough when I did it. I'd have to only be working one job at a time, but I would entertain it."

Celebrities competing for the mirrorball prize this season, which premiered Monday night, include Penn Jillette, Monica Seles, Steve Guttenberg, Priscilla Presley and Marissa Jaret Winokur.



President Bill Clinton, left, hosting his Clinton Global Initiative University, and actor Brad Pitt, right, founder of the Make It Right Foundation, pose with DeeCarla Rogers while they greet volunteers and break ground for new homes in the Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans, Sunday, March 16, 2008. AP

## Bill Clinton, Pitt break ground in N.O.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Former President Clinton and Brad Pitt met with hundreds of volunteers in the Lower 9th Ward at the site where a foundation headed by Pitt plans to begin building affordable homes for Hurricane Katrina victims.

"We hope to see a huge change here in the next six months," Pitt told a group of residents as he posed for pictures Sunday and signed autographs.

The 44-year-old actor and Clinton walked a street as hundreds of volunteers on either side, wielding shovels and rakes, prepared the land for homes. For hours, they cleared overgrown grass and weeds that were covering street drains and sidewalks.

The Lower 9th Ward was one of the hardest-hit neighborhoods in New Orleans when Katrina

struck on Aug. 29, 2005, causing the city's levee system to fail with devastating flooding.

"We're working to get the grounds ready so construction can begin," said Anne Bouthiette, a 20-year-old sophomore history major at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

"It is only fitting that we culminate a weekend focused on youth service by turning words into action," Clinton said in a prepared statement.

A brass band played in the background as Clinton and Pitt shook hands and chatted with volunteers.

Bouthiette said this was her first visit to New Orleans and she was enjoying the opportunity to help with the city's recovery.

"There's a pressing need for people to come down here and do

work," she said. "There are still so many things that need to be done. Everybody can do something."

Bouthiette was among some 600 college students in New Orleans for the Clinton Global Initiative University, a three-day program that began Friday and was designed to challenge college students and universities to tackle global problems with practical, innovative solutions.

The event wrapped Sunday with the volunteer effort in the Lower 9th Ward, at the site where Pitt and his Make It Right Foundation are building homes using environmentally friendly materials such as cisterns and solar panels for residents who lost their homes in the storm.

Pitt and Clinton broke ground with shovels after their mingling with the volunteers.



# Mariah: I know I'm called 'ditzzy moron'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Mariah Carey knows her indisputable talent clashes with her sexed-up image as a “ditz.” “It’s a dichotomy, I understand,” the 37-year-old Grammy winner tells *Allure* magazine. “I understand that people think I am a ditzy moron.”

The singer—who was treated for exhaustion in 2001 after a public meltdown—says she still struggles with her confidence.

“I’ve always had really low self-esteem, and I still do,” she says. “What’s weird about that is being onstage, and the love that you get, and the adoration that you feel from your real fans. It’s hard for a partner to compete—just imagine.”

Carey and ex-husband Tommy Mottola, the former chair-



Singer Mariah Carey makes an appearance on MTV's Total Request Live, in this Feb. 27, 2008, file photo in New York. AP

man and CEO of Sony Music Entertainment, divorced in 1997. She has described that relationship as controlling and says: “I had to make a decision: either lose myself completely or learn to stand up for myself. You have to be very courageous to do that.”

She says she’d marry again—preferably, to someone who knows where she’s coming from.

“That’s a big deal for me: feeling like somebody else can’t fully understand me because they’re not in show business. It shouldn’t matter, but it does, because the energy it takes to be ‘on’ is a lot,” she says.

Carey’s latest album, *EMC2*, arrives April 15. Her previous album, “The Emancipation of Mimi,” has sold 10 million copies.

The April issue of *Allure* hits newsstands nationwide on March 25.

## Booklet of special columns is most definitely a ‘keeper’

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

DEAR ABBY: When I was in my teens, my mom had a publication of yours that included poems and special columns from the Dear Abby archives. I loved to pick it up from time to time and look at it. Among my favorites of the many varied items inside was the prayer for a family pet. It helped me greatly when our dog, “Blondie,” reached the end of her life.

There were also a couple of pieces about the harm done by gossip, which I found especially relevant to my life as a teenager.

I am now a mom, and my daughter is 12. I don’t know what became of my family’s copy of that booklet, but I would love to have another one to share with my daughter. I think she’d get a kick out of many of the poems and essays—and frankly, I would also enjoy revisiting some of them myself, this time from an adult perspective. Is that publication still available?

—JENNA IN GAMBRILLS, MD.

DEAR JENNA: Yes, the booklet is still available.

Over the years, readers have requested that I rerun articles that have special meaning for them. Readers told me that some of my columns had been clipped and saved until they were yellowed with age and falling apart.

Then they suggested that the special letters, poems and essays be assembled as a booklet. It is titled “Keepers” because so many Dear Abby readers have kept them to reread.

You can order a copy by sending a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby—Keepers, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Many people have told me that “Keepers” makes a welcome gift for newlyweds, new parents, animal lovers, or anyone who is recovering from an illness because it’s a quick and easy read, and filled with wisdom and humor on a wide variety of topics.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife is a pug nut. She has two ugly dogs, and she lets them sleep with us. The dogs snore and break wind all night, and she thinks it’s cute. If I snore or break wind, she tells me it’s annoying.

She dresses these dogs in expensive gowns and pearls. Now she expects me to drive them 1,200 miles to our vacation home, while she flies. She also wants to buy a third dog. What do I do?

—NO. 4 IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR NO. 4: People usually get the kind of treatment they’re willing to tolerate. In most marriages, the spouse takes precedence over the pets—regardless of how beloved those pets may be.

If I—or my husband—had been in your situation, the pugs would have been slumbering together in their own little bed since the beginning. However, because you have failed to draw the line, you have given your wife implied consent. Unless you’re ready to stand on your hind legs and demand to be treated better than the four-legged members of your household, you’ll have to move a little closer to the edge of the bed and have your vehicle checked before you embark on your 1,200-mile trip.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## Cyrus’ child is no Destiny

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Hannah Montana is leaving destiny behind.

Miley Cyrus, whose given name is Destiny Hope Cyrus, has filed papers in Los Angeles Superior Court to change her full legal name to Miley Ray Cyrus.

The 15-year-old singer and TV star is the daughter of coun-

try singer Billy Ray Cyrus, who filed the papers last Friday with wife Leticia. Her father writes in the filing that the request was “to make her commonly used name the same as her legal name.”

The name-change request was first reported by the celebrity Web site TMZ.com.

Miley Cyrus has said her father gave her the nickname

“Smiley Miley” as a baby because of her sunny disposition. On the Disney Channel tween hit “Hannah Montana,” she plays a teen who hides her singing stardom.

Miley and Billy Ray Cyrus are hosting the Country Music Television ceremony together at Nashville’s Belmont University on April 14.

## Madonna denies marriage is splitting up

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Madonna is squashing suggestions that her marriage may be ending. “I am delighted to confirm that Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ritchie remain happily married,” the pop star’s spokeswoman, Liz Rosenberg, said in a statement Monday.

The news media and blogosphere have been speculating on the couple’s status; on Monday, the British newspaper The Sun published a gossipy article on its Web site with the headline: “Madge’s marriage ‘hangs by a thread.’”

Ritchie, 39, attended neither Madonna’s induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last week nor her star-studded United Nations fundraiser in early February.

Rosenberg explained that, until recently, Madonna, 49, and Ritchie were living in separate countries: The Material Girl toured the U.S. to promote her upcoming album “Hard Candy,” while the director was stationed in England putting the finishing touches on his new film “RocknRolla,” filming a Nike commercial and “working on several scripts.”

Today, the Ritchies are “joyfully back together at home in London. All is well and wonderful in the Ritchie household,” Rosenberg said.



Director Guy Ritchie and his wife Madonna attend a special screening of “Revolver” in this Dec. 2, 2007, file photo in New York. AP

The couple have a son, Rocco, 7, and Madonna has a daughter, Lourdes, 11. In

2006, they began raising a Malawian boy they want to adopt.

## Osmonds to host Miss USA in Las Vegas

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Donnie and Marie Osmond will host the upcoming Miss USA pageant. The Miss Universe Organization says the brother-and-sister, song-and-dance stars will perform on the NBC Universal show April 11 from the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. The network owns the pageant with real estate mogul Donald Trump.

The rival Miss America pageant crowned its 2008 queen in the same casino in January.

Pageant executives say the telecast will represent the first time Donny and Marie Osmond have hosted a prime-time show together since 2000.

Marie Osmond recently competed in ABC’s “Dancing With the Stars.” Donnie Osmond is appearing in “College Road Trip,” a Disney comedy starring Martin Lawrence and Raven Symone.

The current Miss USA, Rachel Smith of Tennessee, was crowned last year in Los Angeles.

## Radiohead hosts online video contest

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Radiohead allowed fans to choose a price for their latest tunes. Now, the best-selling band is hoping fans will make them a music video, too.

TBD Records, Cartoon Network’s Adult Swim and anima-

tion Web portal Aniboom.com are sponsoring an online contest inviting Radiohead fans to produce an animated music video for any song from “In Rainbows,” the band’s popular 2007 album that was originally available for download at an optional price.

Online voters and a panel of judges will select finalists with Radiohead choosing a winner who will receive a \$10,000 prize to produce a full-length animated music video. The competition began Monday and continues through April 27.







# CLASSIFIED ADS

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$25</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$35</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$45</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$55</b>

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

<b>1st position</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>2nd position</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>
<b>Succeeding positions</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished  
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,  
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 BEAUTICIAN (WF 0019)  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Paulina A. Pascual dba Hibiscus Salon @788-9069/235-5122.

**MOTOR BIKE  
REPAIR CENTER**  
  
**233-5641**  
Open 7 Day a Week  
9:00 AM-9:00 PM

**WANTED  
AVON  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
Earn easy additional income  
30% to 50% commission.  
Please call Jojo Faler  
at 323-4455 or 483-1971

### WHATZIT Solution: Slimming diet

1 MASON (WF 0020)  
Salary:\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Hugh L. Hargrove dba Landmark Limited @235-3329.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (WF 0021)  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; duty meal only; medical & workers compensation insurance provided. Contact: Kuri Enterprises, Inc. dba Kuri-Ya Restaurant @234-5878.

**22 FT. SHAMROCK  
WARRIOR**  
**170 HP Yanmar Diesel  
Engine (Inboard)**  
**\$14,000 or best offer**  
**Call: 788-3787 or 285-2713**

**LOST PASSPORT**  
**Korean**  
Name : **Kim, Ji Youn**  
Date of Birth : **Aug. 30, 1981**  
Upon found, call **287-7733**

**WE WANT TO BUY A HOUSE AND LOT OR  
WAREHOUSE. ANY INTERESTED PARTIES  
PLEASE CALL 235-4928 OR 285-7777.**

**CHC VOLUNTEERS' GARAGE SALE**  
**Saturday, March 29, 2008**  
**Set up - 6:30am - 7:30am**  
**Sale - 8:00am - 3:00pm**  
**CHC Parking Area**  
Tent spaces cost \$20 and are limited. Call Kim Prinz @ 287-2428 or email: kprinz@excite.com to reserve your space now!

**Marianas Maid  
Services**  
Are you overwhelmed at work?  
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?  
**LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE  
\*\*\* SPARKLE \*\*\***  
Cleaning services starting as low as \$30 per cleaning.  
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.  
All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.  
Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available upon request.  
Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

**WHATZIT?**  
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.  
**D I E T**  
Find today's solution in this section

1 GEN. MAINTENANCE (WF 0022)  
Salary:\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Robert & Agnes Schrack @288-1317.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0023)  
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workers compensation & medical expenses provided by employers. Contact: Leticia R. Stollenberg dba Janrome Gen. Services @484-2597.

1 HOUSEWORKER (WF 0024)  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; transportation self arrange & medical expenses. Contact: Hasinta Omelau @235-6771.

1 ACCOUNTANT (WF 0025)  
Salary:\$4.25-5.25/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self arrange food; transportation employer provided; workmens compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Pacific Drilling Ltd. dba General Construction Contractor @235-8531.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE (WF 0026)  
Salary:\$3.05-\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self food & workmen's compensation. Contact: The Valley Inn, Inc. dba The Valley Inn, Spring Valley Manpower Agency @234-7028.

1 ELECTRICIAN (WF 0027)  
Salary:\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self food; & workmen's compensation. Contact: The Valley Inn, Inc. dba The Valley Inn, Spring Valley Manpower Agency @234-7028.

18 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0028)  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: None/ Self provided housing; none/self provided food; worksmens com-

pensation & medical provided. Contact: Sablan Topline Company, LLC @235-5206.

1 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (WF 0029)  
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Tand T Sakura Corporation @235-8308.

2 REST. COOK (WF 0030)  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 DRESSMAKER (WF 0031)  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 FOOD SERVICE SUP. (WF 0032)  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 HOST/HOUSTESS RESTAURANT (WF 0033)  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

**Employment Opportunity**  
**@ BANK OF SAIPAN**  
**TINIAN BRANCH**  
**(ONE) Bank Teller**  
**Deadline for submission March 29, 2008**  
**No phone calls please.**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB No.: ITB08-CRM-051**  
**OPENING DATE: MARCH 28, 2008** **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**  
**PURCHASE OF ONE (1) HP DESKJET T610 44" PRINTER SERIES OR EQUIVALENT FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE**  
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.  
**SUBMISSION OF BID VIA E-MAIL TO [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com) IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED ON THIS ITB.**  
PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.  
/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, PHD DIRECTOR, CRMO /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S



**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

**1 SALES MANAGER (WF 0034)**  
Salary:\$4.05-\$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

**2 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR (MW 0024)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**1 DOCUMENTATION CLERK SHIPPING AND RECEIVING (MW 0025)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**1 ELECTRICIAN (MW 0026)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**3 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (MW 0027)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**1 QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER (MW 0028)**  
Salary:\$1,000.00-\$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**14 CUTTER (MW 0029)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**12 PRESSER (MW 0030)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**35 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR (MW 0031)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**1 ACCOUNTANT (MW 0032)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman com-

pensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**10 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER/INSPECTOR (MW 0033)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical expense & workman compensation. Contact: Rifu Apparel Corp. dba Garment @234-9602.

**1 CARPENTER (MW 0034)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: World International Corporation @233-1545.

**13 DANCER (MW 0035)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Japan Enterprises Corporation @233-1545.

**6 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0036)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Japan Enterprises Corporation @233-1545.

**10 DANCER (MW 0037)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Japan Enterprises Corporation @233-1545.

**6 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0038)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Japan Enterprises Corporation @233-1545.

**1 SUPERVISOR (WM 0039)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**14 SINGER (MW 0040)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and

from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**11 DANCER (MW 0041)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**6 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0042)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**1 (ASST.) MANAGER NIGHT CLUB (MW 0043)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**1 SUPERVISOR (MW 0044)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

pany Limited @233-1545.

**14 SINGER (MW 0045)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**11 DANCER (MW 0046)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**6 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0047)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**1 (ASST.) MANAGER NIGHT CLUB (MW 0048)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**1 (ASST.) MANAGER NIGHT CLUB (MW 0049)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.00/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**11 SINGER (MW 0050)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**10 DANCER (MW 0051)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation; medical coverage & free transportation to and from work place. Contact: Jaguar Company Limited @233-1545.

**1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (WF 0035)**  
Salary:\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen compensation provided by company. Contact: Treasures Inc. @233-3701/03.

**1 AUTO MECHANIC (WF 0036)**  
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation by employer; transportation is self arranged; food is self provided; housing is self arranged; medical at 80% by employer and 20% by employee. Contact: Man's Service, LLC dba Man's Service @322-6267.

**1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (WF 0037)**  
Salary:\$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Saipan Auto Clinic Company @234-0994.

**1 SHOP SUPERVISOR (WF 0038)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Marianas Repairs Co., Inc. @234-9083.

**1 WELDER (WF 0039)**  
Salary:\$3.55-\$4.65/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Marianas Repairs Co., Inc. @234-9083.

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Position:** Field Office Representative **Opening Date:** March 14, 2008  
**Salary:** PL 32-1, \$24,889.35 per annum **Closing Date:** April 14, 2008  
to PL 32-5, \$30,246.74 per annum

**Job Location:** NMHC Field Office, Island of Rota, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, OR at the NMHC Rota Field Office, during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 14, 2008, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than April 14, 2008, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to [ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp) NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO  
Corporate Director



# Dwight Howard lifts Magic to win over Cavs



**ORLANDO, Florida** (AP)—Dwight Howard notched 23 points and 13 rebounds, Rashard Lewis scored 21 and the Orlando Magic beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 104-90 in the NBA on Monday.

LeBron James had 30 points, nine rebounds and six assists for Cleveland. Delonte West had 16 points and Sasha Pavlovic added 14.

The Magic made their mark from long range, including five 3-pointers in a four-minute stretch of the third quarter. Orlando was 14-for-32 on 3s, compared with 6-for-19 for the Cavaliers, and got 20 points off 15 Cleveland turnovers in its fifth straight win.

## Hawks 105, Wizards 96

At Washington, Mike Bibby scored 23 points and Joe Johnson added 18 points and 10 assists to lead Atlanta to its third straight win and move them one-half game ahead of idle New Jersey for eighth place in



AP  
Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12) gets between Cleveland Cavaliers guard Delonte West (13) and center Anderson Varejao, right, of Brazil, and dunks the ball in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Monday, March 17, 2008.

## UConn, UNC, Tennessee, Maryland No. 1s



Tennessee. Connecticut. Maryland. North Carolina. Those No. 1 seeds—all familiar powerhouses to college basketball fans and all previous winners—anchored the NCAA women's tournament bracket, with the Lady Vols opening defense of their championship in the Oklahoma City Regional.

Connecticut and Tennessee didn't meet this season for the first time in 13 years. That could change April 8 in Tampa with the national championship on the line.

"It's Tennessee and Connecticut. I think there's always a lot of hype," said Tennessee coach Pat Summitt, whose team led by All-American Candace Parker opens up Sunday against Oral Roberts. "My mind is not on anything else but getting our team better."

Before the two could meet, Connecticut must get through new rival Rutgers. The Huskies are the top seed in Greensboro, and the Scarlet Knights are No. 2. Rutgers handed Connecticut its only loss this season.

"With so many teams to choose from it's kind of ironic," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said. "I guess Rutgers is the No. 8 seed in the country? I find that hard to believe, but I guess they are. If I were them,

I'd be questioning a little bit what's going on."

Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer stared at the television in disbelief when the announcement was made that the Scarlet Knights would have to face Connecticut to advance to the Final Four.

"I didn't think there was any way on God's earth that this would happen," Stringer said. "I am just stunned and shocked. This is a mindblower. I just assumed that they would ask us to go through North Carolina, they have a very similar style to our play and we didn't see them this year. If I were a betting woman I would have lost all my money today."

The No. 1 seeded Huskies (32-1) will open against No. 16 Cornell on Sunday in Bridgeport, Conn.

UConn, ranked atop the AP poll for 12 of the final 13 weeks, is hoping to get to the Final Four for the first time since 2004. The Huskies lost to LSU in the regional final last season. Connecticut's four seniors have added motivation: If they don't make it to Tampa, they would become the first Huskies' class in 20 to have never made it to the Final Four. The Huskies are led by freshman star Maya Moore, who became the first Big East freshman to win Player of the Year.

North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell, however, was clearly

frustrated by her team's draw. She had lobbied for the Tar Heels to be sent to Greensboro—about an hour west of the Chapel Hill campus—after they won the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament there last week.

Instead, her team might have to face second-seeded LSU in New Orleans for the right to go to the Final Four. If that happens, it would be the fourth time in six years North Carolina has had to face a lower-seeded team playing close to home.

"I don't really have any thoughts," Hatchell said when asked about the draw. "We're just ready to play."

"I'm going to wait until after the tournament's over to say anything."

The Tar Heels open play on Sunday against Bucknell.

LSU and senior Sylvia Fowles have made the last four Final Fours. First-year coach Van Chancellor hopes to continue the streak and finally win a national championship for the Lady Tigers.

The only real surprise among the top seeds was Maryland getting the No. 1 in Spokane over Stanford, which was No. 2. Maryland lost in the semifinals of the ACC tournament to Duke.

"I tell you, we're ecstatic," said Terps coach Brenda Frese of the No. 1 seed. "We obviously feel like you play the entire

the Eastern Conference.

Atlanta rookie center Al Horford added 12 points, 15 rebounds and a career-high six assists.

Washington, which had its three-game winning streak end, had won 12 of 15 games against the Hawks. Antawn Jamison led the Wizards with 25 points.

## Pacers 110, Knicks 98

At Indianapolis, Mike Dunleavy tied his career high with 36 points, Danny Granger had 26 points and 11 rebounds, and Troy Murphy added 13 points and 10 rebounds for Indiana, which snapped a two-game losing streak.

Zach Randolph had 21 points and 14 rebounds for New York, which has lost nine of 10.

## Celtics 93, Spurs 91

At San Antonio, Paul Pierce scored 22 points, Kevin Garnett added 21 and Boston rallied for a win.

Rajon Rondo added 20 points and Sam Cassell 17. He gave Boston its first lead of the fourth quarter with 46 seconds left when he hit a 3-pointer to make it 89-87.

Manu Ginobili had 32 points to lead San Antonio, which lost its season-high fourth straight. Tony Parker added 17.

## Grizzlies 98, Bobcats 80

At Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Miller had 18 points and 13 re-

season for this moment. The fact that our non-conference schedule really prepared us for now, to play in one of the toughest conferences, to go 30-3. I think it's a tribute to our team and to our program, just how hard we worked throughout the course of the entire season."

Frese delivered twin boys in late February, but is back as the Terrapins seek their second national championship in three seasons.

Stanford, behind preseason All-American Candice Wiggins, has won 18 straight games and is trying to become the first Pac-10 team to make the Final Four in a decade.

"I think sometimes it's hard (because) people don't see us play," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "If the world was fair, it would turn the other way. We have a great team, great leaders. We have great players. We're really excited about playing in the tournament."

While the Big East and Big 12 both have eight teams in the tournament, there are nine first-timers—Cleveland State, Cornell, East Tennessee State, Fresno State, Miami (Ohio), Murray State, Texas-San Antonio, UTEP, and Wyoming.

"I want to congratulate our players," UTEP coach Keitha Adams said. "Young ladies, you've made history today." (AP)

bounds, helping Memphis snap a four-game losing streak.

Juan Carlos Navarro led Memphis with 21 points and Darko Milicic added 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Derek Anderson had a season-high 17 points for Charlotte, whose starters scored only 36 points.

## Hornets 108, Bulls 97

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had game highs of 37 points and 13 assists for New Orleans, which outscored Chicago 33-13 in the fourth quarter.

Paul made an open 3-pointer with 2:47 left to tie it 96-all. After a steal by Jannero Pargo on the next possession, Paul found Tyson Chandler for a thundering alley-oop dunk to give the Hornets their first lead since halftime.

Bonzi Wells, who scored 19 points, added two free throws and a dunk in the next two possessions to seal the Hornets' victory.

Ben Gordon scored 31 points for Chicago and Drew Gooden had 23 points and 12 rebounds.

## Timberwolves 99, Clippers 90

At Minneapolis, Al Jefferson

had his 48th double-double with 22 points and 14 rebounds and Ryan Gomes scored 19 points for Minnesota.

Jefferson trails only Orlando's Dwight Howard, who recorded his 60th double-double on Monday, among NBA leaders in that category.

Corey Maggette had 34 points for Los Angeles, which concluded a five-game road trip by losing its fourth straight.

## Jazz 96, Raptors 79

At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams scored 21 points and his backup, Ronnie Price, had 13 points and five assists as Utah tied a franchise record with its 19th straight home victory.

With the game tied at 65, Price led the Jazz on a 24-4 run to start the fourth quarter. He had two driving layups, three assists and some pesky defense on Toronto's T.J. Ford.

Carlos Boozer had 13 points and 10 rebounds as the Jazz matched the 19-game home winning streak they had from Jan. 19-March 29, 1996.

Jose Calderon had 16 points to lead the Raptors, who extended a season-long losing skid to five games.

## Dice-K to start Red Sox opener in Japan



TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Japanese

right-hander Daisuke Matsuzaka will start Boston's regular-season opener against the Oakland Athletics in Tokyo on March 25.

"I think that will be a ton of excitement," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said before Monday's exhibition game against the New York Yankees. "I know he's honored."

Jon Lester will pitch the second of the two-game series with the A's in Japan on March 26.

Clay Buchholz and Tim Wakefield will be on the hill for exhibition games in Japan prior to the regular-season contests. Buchholz will start against the Hanshin Tigers on Saturday, and Wakefield against the Yomiuri Giants on Sunday. Buchholz allowed two hits over four scoreless innings in a Triple-A game Monday.

Matsuzaka was scheduled to return to camp Monday after missing the previous two days following the birth of his son Saturday.

"Those four guys have pretty much known that for probably a week," Francona said. "Again, just because of Dice-K's situation. I don't want to say it was in limbo because Dice-K was prepared to pitch. There's just proper ways to do things. He went home, and

things kind of broke anyway. He was all set to go."

The Red Sox opted not to move up Wakefield.

"If you just go on deserving, and wins, losses, (Wakefield is) the guy that goes in there," Francona said. "I think we kind of fought the urge just because when he's not in our rotation we're not as good a team. We want him to make his 30 starts."

Right-hander Josh Beckett, who will not travel to Japan because of a back injury, threw from 120 feet Monday.

"Another good day," Francona said. "So probably he's going to come along fairly quickly."

Beckett could pitch in minor league games in Florida. It's not known when he will make his first regular-season start.

"It's all according to how he feels," Francona said. "To do anything differently would be silly on my part. He's going to go as fast as he can, we know that."

In minor league games Monday, Coco Crisp (groin) went 1-for-5 and Bobby Kielty (right calf) went 1-for-4. The two outfielders will play in minor league games again Tuesday.

Boston optioned right-handers Craig Hansen and Lincoln Holdzkorn, catcher George Kottaras, and first baseman-outfielder Chris Carter to Triple-A Pawtucket.



# Europe, Australia oppose Games boycott



**BRDO PRI KRANJU, Slovenia (AP)**—

Amid escalating violence in and around Tibet, the message from around the world was clear: "Let the games begin."

European nations and Olympic committees said Monday they opposed a boycott of the Beijing Games over China's handling of the unrest in Tibet. And most everyone else who spoke out, from Russia to the United States to Australia, echoed that approach.

"Under no circumstance will we support the boycott. We are 100 percent unanimous," Patrick Hickey, the head of the European Olympic Committees, told The Associated Press.

The EU sports ministers and Olympic committees said sports should not be linked to such a political issue and that previous Olympic boycotts had limited impact.

"Not one world leader has come out with the suggestion of a boycott and no less a person than the Dalai Lama" is against it, Hickey said. "A boycott is only a punishment of the athletes."

Slovene Sports Minister Milan Zver, who is chairing a meeting of top EU sports officials from the 27 member states and Olympic committees, said it was no different on the government side. "I am against a boycott of the Olympic Games in China," Zver said.

Christiane Hohmann, a spokeswoman for the EU's executive commission, said "such a boycott would not be the appropriate way" to voice concerns of human rights or rights of those in Tibet.

World 50-meter butterfly champion Roland Schoeman, however, supports calls for the IOC to take a stand.

The IOC "should stand up and say, 'The way these people are being treated is not acceptable,'" the South African swimmer said. "Either you put an end to this or else. The 'or else' could be extreme or it could be a set of conditions."

From its Colorado headquarters, the U.S. Olympic Committee reiterated its stance that an American boycott is out of the question.

"Put together a ranking of the worst ideas ever conceived and 'Olympic boycott' would be at the top of that list," USOC spokesman Darryl Seibel said. "Other than unnecessarily and unfairly punishing athletes, Olympic boycotts accomplish absolutely nothing."

Russia warned against turning the Beijing Olympics into a political game.

"We would like to underscore that efforts to politicize the holding of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in China are unacceptable," the government said.

Added Australian Foreign



A line of police block protesters demanding an end to repression in Tibet at the gate outside the Chinese consulate in Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, March 18, 2008. The demonstration was the latest of several in major Australian cities against a Chinese clampdown on protests in Tibet against Chinese rule.

Minister Stephen Smith: "I very strongly believe that we should not in any way bring the Olympics or call the Olympics into question."

Erica Terpstra, the head of the Dutch Olympic Committee, said it is wrong to burden sports with such problems, and "it really has to be for the politicians."

"There was no call for a boycott whatsoever, even though there is great concern about what happens there," Terpstra added. "And I have an additional concern: 'keep your hands off my athletes.'"

That idea was echoed by Claudia Bokel, head of the athlete's commission of the European Olympic Committees.

"We are very concerned as athletes but we have been working on the qualification for the games for a long time. It is our existence," said Bokel, a fencing silver medalist for Germany. "We, as athletes, think we should have the time to do our sport and not get involved as a tool for politics."

Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates contends that a boycott would only harm the athletes.

"It is not the role of the IOC to take the lead in addressing such issues as human rights or political matters, which are most appropriately addressed by governments or concerned

## The legend of Tiger Woods keeps growing



**DORAL, Fla. (AP)**—

The outcome has never been more inevitable. Tiger Woods has never looked so invincible. The world's No. 1 golfer faced a 25-foot birdie putt on the final hole at Bay Hill, and the moment he settled over the ball and the crowd grew quiet, it no longer mattered that Woods had not made a putt this long all week.

This one was for the win.

For most players, making such a clutch putt would be a career highlight. For Woods, it's more like a summer rerun.

"You know what he's going to do, right?" Arnold Palmer whispered to those around him right before Woods rapped his putt down the slope and watched it turn sharply to the right and tumble into the cup for a one-shot victory.

For Woods, it is the ultimate thrill.

"It's knowing that you have an opportunity to end the tournament, and it's in your hands," he said. "Whether you do it or not remains to be seen. It's like having the ball with a few seconds to go. Do you want it or not want it? I would much rather have it in my hands."

Lately, it has been nothing but net.

The Florida Swing long has

been known as the road to the Masters, which is three weeks away. Woods already has his game at warp speed, and he's lapping the field. His victory Sunday in the Arnold Palmer Invitational was his fifth in a row on the PGA Tour and his sixth straight worldwide, a streak that spans six months and is the longest overall of his incomparable career. When he won seven straight tour events in 2006-2007, second only to Byron Nelson's 11 in 1945, Woods lost three times overseas.

Now, even the purists must wonder if Woods can go an entire season without losing.

"It's unbelievable, isn't it?" Steve Stricker said Monday. "You think that one of these times, he's not going to get it done. But he continues to do it. And now you expect it. You just learn with him that nothing is unexpected."

Woods' latest victim was Bart Bryant, who did everything right and never felt so helpless.

Bryant twice made birdie to tie Woods for the lead, shot a 67 in stifling heat and waited in the scoring trailer to see if Woods could beat him. There was no television in the trailer, and Bryant didn't need one.

He heard a roar that rattled the trailer, and Bryant forced a smile and slowly shook his head.

"That's why he's Tiger

Woods," he said.

Stricker felt that way outside Chicago the second week in September, when this winning streak started. He had a one-shot lead in the final round when he got to the 12th hole, looked down toward the green and saw Woods make a 50-foot birdie putt to catch him. Woods went on to a two-shot victory.

He can sympathize with Bryant.

"That's all you can do sometimes is shake your head and laugh," Stricker said. "That's what it's getting to be—laughable."

Golf is more global than it was a half-century ago, so Woods' winning streak is complicated. This is the third time he has won at least five in a row, and he also won on the European Tour last month, shooting a 31 on the back nine to rally from a four-shot deficit.

And he won the Target World Challenge in December, although that doesn't count because it was a charity event that Woods hosts for 16 top players from the world ranking. For what it's worth, Woods won by seven shots.

Woods is so dominant that he has won seven of his last eight times on the PGA Tour, the exception being a runner-up finish to Phil Mickelson at the Deutsche Bank Championship on Labor Day. He's an incred-

ible 16 for 25 since the 2006 British Open.

"What he's doing now, you can't even fathom it," Bryant said. "You just can't explain it. It's just incredible. Just what he did today is more evidence of this weird zone he's in. And he's been in it his whole life."

Woods was just starting college in 1994, a skinny teenager who had fallen behind in the championship match of the U.S. Amateur, when his father whispered in his ear, "Let the legend grow." Woods birdied three straight holes to win.

Ernie Els added to the hype when Woods went eagle-birdie-birdie to beat him in a playoff in Hawaii to start the 2000 season.

"I think he's a legend in the making," Els said that day. "You guys have helped, but he's backed it up with his golf game. He's 24. He's probably going to be bigger than Elvis when he gets into his 40s."

He didn't wait that long. He's only 32 and already is tied with Ben Hogan for third in career victories with 64. The only players ahead of him are Jack Nicklaus (73) and Sam Snead (82).

With each victory, Woods adds another layer to the legend.

It's not even spring yet, and consider his year so far: He set scoring records at Torrey Pines

organizations," Coates said.

On Monday, Tibet's governor promised leniency to anti-Chinese protesters who turned themselves in before the end of the day, as troops fanned out to quell sympathy protests that have spread to three neighboring provinces.

The fiercest protests against Chinese rule in almost two decades have embarrassed China's communist government and hurt its efforts to have a smooth run-up to the Aug. 8-24 Olympics.

Europe has never questioned the right for the Chinese to stage the games. On Friday, a summit of EU leaders criticized China's response to demonstrations in Tibet but did not threaten a boycott on human rights grounds.

Togay Bayatli, president of the Turkish Olympic Committee, stressed it was up to business leaders and politicians to take the initiative.

"Our countries are doing business there," Bayatli said. "Everybody is going there."

Economic relations between the 27-nation EU and China are moving closer. Bilateral trade doubled between 2000-05 and reached \$370 billion in 2006. Europe is China's largest export market and China is Europe's prime source of imports.

Zver has argued that political pressure through sports doesn't work, saying the boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games was largely ineffectual at a political level. At the same time, it badly hurt the Olympic movement.

"Sport is tool of dialogue," Zver said.

with an eight-shot victory. He was headed for a first-round defeat in the Accenture Match Play Championship when he made 90 feet worth of putts to win four straight holes for a stunning comeback victory, and he eventually set a record in the final match for largest margin of victory (8 and 7).

And then came Palmer's tournament, and a putt that everyone knew was going to drop.

Can he go undefeated? Even as well as he is playing, the odds are against it. Woods hinted as much when someone asked what could stop this winning streak.

"All of the players in the event," he said.

Even so, consider what lies ahead. He is playing this week at Doral, where he has won the last three years. Next up is the Masters, where Woods is a four-time champion. He is the defending champion at the Wachovia Championship in North Carolina. In fact, he has won every event on his schedule.

"He's got a lot of memories, and they're all positive," Stricker said. "Some guys could blow a tournament, and two weeks later they're in contention and have to think about that. All he has is positives. His whole career is nothing but positive reinforcement."



# Red Bull inks Mexican 7-footer

MANILA, Philippines—Red Bull finally signed an import in seven-foot-behemoth Adam Parada Sunday, completing the cast of imports for the coming 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Cup.

The Barakos lost Jameel Watkins to Magnolia but seemed to have found a better replacement in Parada, who will be the tallest among all imports starting for their respective teams in the tourney beginning March 29 in Panabo City, Davao del Norte.

Parada was among the last cut in the Los Angeles Lakers lineup for the 2005 NBA season and also saw action for the Sacramento Kings in the most recent NBA summer league.

He's a product of California-Irvine and has long been a mainstay of the Mexican national team. He is expected to arrive in the country Tuesday.

Red Bull expressed interest on Watkins—former Shell import—but was beaten to the draw by Magnolia.

The cast of imports for the

coming reinforced tourney is now complete with Red Bull enlisting the 26-year-old player.

Bobby Burries and Jason Dixon will play Coca-Cola, Cory Santee and Jason Keep for Welcoat, Rahshon Turner for Ginebra, Wesley Wilson for Sta. Lucia, Randy Holcomb for Alaska, Aaron McGhee for Talk n Text, Darius Rice for Purefoods and Steve Thomas for Air21.

Parada is seven-foot flat and weighs 265 pounds. He averaged two points and three assists a game with the Kings in the recent NBA summer league.

He's long been a member of the Mexican national team, making an impact for the team in the last Tournament of the Americas.

Three years ago, Red Bull also unveiled a legitimate seven-foot import in Earl Baron who later made the NBA, playing for the Miami champion team bannered by Dwayne Wade and Shaquille O'Neal.



Red Bull has proved to have a good eye for import talent, recruiting Tony Lang and James Penny who both powered the

team to championships.

The Barakos have always been a contender in reinforced tourneys. ([www.pba.com.ph](http://www.pba.com.ph))

## MANACOP

From Page 28

and 217.5. The youth bowler bowled consistently in the four games with a 231, 203, 216, and 220 series.

Percy Omechalang came in third with a four-games series of 173, 247, 213, and 199 for a total of 832 and 208 average.

Another national bowler, Raymond Zapanta, ranked

fourth with his 829 and 207.25 average built around a series of 236, 225, 202, and 166.

Manacop, Angeles, Omechalang, and Zapanta took home \$100, \$60, \$40, and \$30, respectively.

In the Budweiser Queen of the Lanes, Ron Cal won the tiara after rolling an eye-popping 831 pinfall total and 207.75 average.

Cal's score was just a pin shy of Omechalang's total and three better than men's fourth placer Zapanta.

## NMA

From Page 28

2007 were Mieko Carey, Noriko Jim, Akiko Hagiwara,



Angelo Jones, left, and Madison Schultz pose for photographers in this file photo taken during the award ceremony of the Saipan Winter Festival of Runs at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last January.

and Mamiko Oshima.

NMA secretary general Robin Sapong is inviting all athletes and NMA officials to join them in honoring the top athletes of 2007.

## FANTASTIC

From Page 28

"What a week! We just finished a fantastic week of sporting and social events that just shows the outside world, through word of mouth of the athletes, that we have the best little secret in the world."

Mojica thanked the whole community for their support in making the Sportsfest one memorable event as they look forward for next year when Saipan will be celebrating the 20th year of the Tagaman. "We are planning on having another Sportsfest next year only bigger and better."

"I want to thank all of you who had any part in the organization or execution of these events. Something of this magnitude could not happen without the incredible support of the community here on Saipan. Thanks so much and see you next year."

Mojica made special mention of Bill Sakovich, Yoichi Mat-

sumura, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, J.M. Guerrero, and the numerous volunteers and organizers that helped them in the two races, held six days apart.

Mojica and the Taga Inc. board also awarded a plaque of appreciation to Kiyokazu Onishi and the people of Kaike, Japan for their continued support in the Tagaman.

He also thanked Bob Winkfield for helping out in the bike transition area, Bob Springer for manning the finish line, and amateur photographer Dan Kimball for the excellent photo coverage of both events.

Other events in the Sportsfest were a sunset trail run, competitive race at the Marianas Raceway, a classical music concert, a clinic by pro Jim Vance, a golf tournament, and a hash run.

A final barbecue was also held at Obyan Beach last Sunday as organizers hosted for the last time the off-island guests.

## ROCK STEADY

From Page 28

full control of the match.

Tuwi Ngridong pitched 3.2 innings in his first start allowing Rock Steady to six earned runs on six hits, while having one

strikeout and three walks.

Darwin Masaharu pitched 2.7 innings in relief giving up five earned runs on nine hits with three strikeouts and no walks.

Komoro will try to end their three-game slide when they face the dangerous D9ers at 6:30pm today.

# Tested vet for Magnolia, big-time scorer for Purefoods

MANILA, Philippines—Veteran PBA import Jameel Watkins and former top NBA prospect Darius Lashaun Rice signed up with Magnolia and Purefoods, respectively, Saturday, two weeks before the Smart Fiesta Cup reels off with a road game in Panabo, Davao del Norte.

Magnolia beat Red Bull in their tug-o-war for the services of Watkins while Purefoods was able to convince Rice to play for the team after his stint in the Puerto Rican league.

"We'd been in contact with Watkins' agent since February. Hindi lang pumirma agad dahil buntis yung asawa. Finally, he agreed to play for us when his wife gave birth Friday," said Magnolia coach Siot Tanquingcen.

Tanquingcen is hopeful the former Shell import provides them help in departments where they fared badly last conference.

"Ang hina ng depensa namin noong All-Filipino. Doon ko in-aasahan trumabaho ng husto si Watkins (Our defense is not so good during the All-Filipino. That's where I expect Watkins would help us the most)," said Tanquingcen of Watkins—good for 27.3 points, 51.2 percent shooting, 18.0 rebounds, 3.9 assists and 2.8 blocks a game for Shell in 2005.

Red Bull was also interested


on the services of Watkins. Beaten to the draw by the Beverage Masters, the Barakos were left as the only team still in search of an import with the tourney already about to start.

Others imports already signed are Bobby Burries and Jason Dixon of Coca-Cola, Cory Santee and Jason Keep of Welcoat, Rahshon Turner of Ginebra, Wesley Wilson of Sta. Lucia, Randy Holcomb of Alaska, Aaron McGhee of Talk n Text and Steve Thomas of Air21.

The 6-foot-11 Watkins is fresh from the Chinese league where he teamed up with former Ginebra import Chris Porter on the Fujian team. He has also played in Korea the last three years, winning one championship with the Dongbu ball club.

The 6-foot-10 Rice, 25, was a highly scouted NBA prospect while playing with the Miami Hurricanes from 2000 to 2004.

He made the All-Big East Second Team and First Team All-District 6 by the NABC in his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons and finished his collegiate career as the fourth all-time leading scorer in school history with 1,865 points. He was the only player in school history to lead the team in scoring in four consecutive seasons. ([www.pba.com.ph](http://www.pba.com.ph))



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	53	13	.803	—
Toronto	34	33	.507	19 1/2
Philadelphia	33	34	.493	20 1/2
New Jersey	28	38	.424	25
New York	19	48	.284	34 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	45	24	.652	—
Washington	33	33	.500	10 1/2
Atlanta	29	38	.433	15
Charlotte	24	43	.358	20
Miami	11	54	.169	32

Central Division

x-Detroit	48	18	.727	—
Cleveland	38	30	.559	11
Chicago	26	40	.394	22
Indiana	26	41	.388	22 1/2
Milwaukee	23	43	.348	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	46	20	.697	—
New Orleans	45	21	.682	1
Dallas	44	23	.657	2 1/2
San Antonio	44	23	.657	2 1/2
Memphis	16	50	.242	30

Northwest Division

Utah	45	24	.652	—
Denver	40	26	.606	3 1/2
Portland	35	32	.522	9
Minnesota	16	50	.242	27 1/2
Seattle	16	51	.239	28

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	45	21	.682	—
Phoenix	44	22	.667	1
Golden State	41	24	.631	3 1/2
Sacramento	30	36	.455	15
L.A. Clippers	21	45	.318	24

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 104, Cleveland 90

Indiana 110, New York 98

Atlanta 105, Washington 96

Memphis 98, Charlotte 80

New Orleans 108, Chicago 97

Minnesota 99, L.A. Clippers 90

Boston 93, San Antonio 91

Utah 96, Toronto 79

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Indoor Standings

Men's Division

	W	L	SW
Menudo	12	4	36
No Fear	11	5	31
Fanians	10	6	31
O'Aces	10	6	25
CH-Hammer	8	8	23
Islanders	7	9	20
Home Boyz	7	9	19
Beach Jammers	3	13	15
Ma Numel'u	2	14	15

Women's Division

Pikan Gaga	11	1	26
YoYo's	8	4	23
Beach Jammers	6	6	15
Seikid	5	7	15
Ta Chagi	1	11	11

SW-Sets won

SML Standings

Rock Steady	4	0
Korean Dreams	3	0
Tanapag Falcons	2	0
D9ers	1	1
Ford Rangers	1	1
Tigers	0	3
Kabur	0	3
Komoro	0	3

SML Box Scores

Rock Steady	1	6	0	4	51 = 17
Kabur	0	0	0	0	0 = 0

R H E

Rock Steady

17 15 13

Kabur

0 4 0



# Mixed reactions from open participants

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Five of the participants in the open category had mixed reactions when they conquered the challenging 19th Tagaman Triathlon course last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Saipan's longest-running triathlon event started with a 2-kilometer swim at the Pacific Islands Club beach and continued with a 60-km bike course from Koblerville to Bird Island to AMP.

The race ended with a 15-km run from AMP to the Microl Toyota intersection in San Jose and back to AMP.

Australian Andrew Noble, who successfully defended his title, said he was surprised about the performance of Japan's Masayuki Matsumaru. "I had a good swim but I was surprised with [Matsumaru] from Japan. He is fast in the bike and that really surprised me."

Noble was first out of the water among the open participants (28:29) with Matsumaru the third person (30:04).

Matsumaru, who also competed in the 2007 Ford Ironman Triathlon in Kona, Hawaii, overtook Noble halfway in the bike course then completely left him while heading back to AMP.

The Japanese pro had an almost four-minute lead over Noble heading into the run leg, but the 7th XTERRA Saipan Champion caught him after two kilometers in the run and distanced himself heading into the finish line.

Noble said the weather conditions last Saturday were perfect. "I survived. [The weather] wasn't too hot and there was little wind. So, it has been perfect. [I had] no problems with the course, everything is excellent."

Matsumaru, who competed in his

fifth Tagaman and finished runner-up for the second straight year, said he expected Noble to finish first since the Aussie is a very strong competitor.

He also placed second last year when Noble won the 18th Tagaman. Matsumaru's second place finish is a big leap after finishing fifth in 2001, in his first Tagaman.

The Ibaraki, Japan native said he did not compete in last week's XTERRA since he is not used to off-road triathlons. "I specialize in a flat course and not off-road triathlon," said Matsumaru, who is the current All Japan triathlon champion, through interpreter Hiroko Tenorio.

Switzerland's Renata Bucher, meanwhile, was glad to finally win her first Tagaman title after three attempts. She said Tagaman has always been special for her since there are a lot of hills along the bike course.

"I like the hills since I grew up in the mountains. Tagaman for me is always been special and it is nice to finish two weeks on Saipan with this race. You get to spend with nice friends and good people."

Her win in last week's XTERRA and Saturday's Tagaman also earned her the PIC Double title, which means she can come back next year. "[XTERRA and Tagaman] are close to my heart. It is my motivation to go back. I'll be back definitely next year."

Bucher said competing in XTERRA

and Tagaman, which is held six days apart, is a challenge to all who will join the two races. "[It is a] question of how much energy you have left for the race. I had a lot of fun and enjoy the company with the locals."

She now goes back to Europe to compete in several mountain bike races as she continues in her bid to be selected in the Swiss National Olympic team. "I will race hard back in Europe and also look forward to Maui."

Women's runner-up Maimi Shimizu, who started triathlon two years ago and spent three months training to prepare for Tagaman, also enjoyed her second Tagaman where she slashed 20 minutes and 10 seconds off her last year's record. She finished in three hours, 30 minutes, and 38 seconds to eclipse her last year's time of 3:50:48.



Tagaman Triathlon open participants, from left, Andrew Noble, Masayuki Matsumaru, Ka-On Cho, Seok\_Joo Han, Eli Torgeson, and Yu-Hun Park during the award ceremony last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club beach.

that is my weakest."

Carey, however, said she is satisfied with her performance in the bike leg and with her time. She finished third overall among the female participants with a time of 1:49:12 which is more than a 12-minute drop from her previous record of 2:01:52.

"I am satisfied with my time in the bike. I was even close with [Bucher] and followed her along with the pros. [Bucher] passed me at Garapan and at Bird Island [Lookout] I was close to her. But going down from Bird Island she took off. Still, I am so happy with my bike time as I get ready for XTERRA Guam."

Carey, who has joined Tagaman the past four years, said she is not concerned about her place in Tagaman as long as she improves her time every year.

"If Jamie and other pros were here maybe [I'm in] 10th place. We are lucky not too many pros competed. I am just happy with my time since this is my best time where I took 20 minutes off my time."

Carey will compete in XTERRA Guam on March 29 and do more hard training on the bike as she prepares for the XTERRA World Championship on Oct. 26 in Maui, Hawaii.

## Tournament of Fools Golf Tournament on April 1



In memory of Dan Hughes, former owner of Coffee Care and friends with many in Micronesia, the Inaugural Dan Hughes Memorial Tournament of Fools Golf will be held this coming April 1 at the Laolao Bay Golf Course east course.

Hughes' 10 years of tournaments were traditionally customer appreciation events, without the usual trips to Hawaii and Guam, or cash prizes. However, the coveted Tournament of Fools jackets will be awarded along with Hughes' traditional favorite, the Big Salami, to the team with the worst score. All other prizes are minimal in value and donated by the participants.

The Inaugural Dan Hughes Memorial Tournament of Fools Golf Tournament

will adopt a four-person best-ball format.

Proceeds past expenses for green fees, banquet costs, and some refreshments will be donated to a charity to be named at the dinner. The entrance fee is \$100, while those wanting to attend just the dinner afterwards will pay a banquet fee only.

Tournament slots are limited at the Kagman golf facility due to heavy course play.

For information on how to register for the Inaugural Dan Hughes Memorial Tournament of Fools Golf Tournament and awards banquet ceremonies that evening, contact Richard Pierce (rapierce@itecnmi.com) at 483-6615, Jeff Taylor (Jeff.Taylor@dfs.com) at 483-2513, or Alex Sablan (saiship@pticom.com) at 888-3279. (PR)

## 3-on-3 caging on April 19



The Victory Chapel in Garapan will hold a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on April 19 and it will run from 3pm to 9pm at the Garapan basketball court across from Bank of Guam.

The tournament is open to men's division teams ages 16-and-over and a minimum of four or maximum of five players are allowed in each squad. The registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and number of teams will be limited to 16.

The tournament, one of Victory Cha-

pel's community projects for the year, will follow a knockout system format where the top two teams after the elimination round will vie for the \$300 top prize, while the runner-up settles for \$180.

Cash prizes and other exciting giveaways, donated by various sponsors, will be raffled throughout the contest. Organizers are inviting everyone to join them in the one-day tournament.

The entrance fee is \$30 per team.

For more information on how to get the entry forms and tournament rules, call Ed Sikayun or Martin Mettao at 235-8418. (Jon Perez)

## Menudo eyes semis spot in volley league

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The league-leading Menudo aims for one of the four playoff spots at stake as the playoff round of the men's 2008 Indoor Winter Volleyball League started yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Games were being played at press time and results were not yet available as of this writing.

Menudo, which finished on top of the standings with a 12-4 mark, was battling eighth-ranked Beach Jammers (3-13), while second seed No Fear (11-5) played against No. 7 Home Boyz (7-9). Fanians, which finished third with a 10-6 slate, fought Islanders (7-9) and Ol'Aces (10-6) battled CH-Hammers (8-8).

In the women's division, Pikan Gaga drew a bye and earned an automatic finals spot after having a league-best 11-1 win-loss card with the other four teams slugging it out for the second championship berth.

YoYo's (8-4) and Beach Jammers (6-6) were playing against Ta Chagi (1-11) and Seikid (5-7) at press time with the winners facing in the finals with the right of facing Pikan Gaga in the finals at stake.



Menudo's defensive stance at the net earned them the best record and the top seeding in the men's division in the 2008 Indoor Winter Volleyball League held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The final matches in the elimination round were played Monday night with Menudo scoring a 25-19, 25-9, 15-12 sweep of Home Boyz, while Fanians tripped Ma Numel'u, 25-19, 25-9, 16-14.

Ma Numel'u bounced back in the final game with their own 25-13, 25-20, 15-11 sweep of Beach Jammers to close out their campaign on a winning note. Ma Numel'u was eliminated af-

ter compiling a 2-14 slate.

In other games, CH-Hammers clipped Ol'Aces, 25-17, 10-25, 15-12, while No Fear scored a hard-earned 26-24, 15-25, 15-10 decision against Islanders.

In the women's side, Beach Jammers downed Seikid, 22-25, 25-21, 15-8, while Pikan Gaga slammed Ta Chagi, 25-14, 25-22, 15-9, for their first three-set sweep this season.





## Mixed reactions from open participants

Five of the participants in the open category had mixed reactions when they conquered the challenging 19th Tagaman Triathlon course last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Dwight Howard lifts Magic to win over Cavs

Dwight Howard notched 23 points and 13 rebounds, Rashard Lewis scored 21 and the Orlando Magic beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 104-90 in the NBA on Monday.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Manacop and Cal are March's best

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Simon Manacop won his first-ever Budweiser King of the Lanes Ten-pin Bowling Tournament last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

It turned out the 28-year-old

CNMI national bowler and Department of Public Safety officer's opening day roll of 890 and 222.5 average was enough to win the monthly championship for March.

Manacop started Sunday with

a monster number of 266 before tapering a bit with throws of 192 and 192 in the middle two games, before erupting once more with a 241 in the fourth game.

National teammate Raymond Angeles finished 20 pins off Manacop's pace with an 870

See MANACOP on Page 26



## 'Fantastic week ends'

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica now can finally relax after the laborious nine-day 2008 Saipan Sportsfest that culminated in the staging of the 19th Tagaman Triathlon last Saturday.

The weeklong Saipan Sportsfest, which began in 2002, started with the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship and ended with the Tagaman. Various activities were also lined up so participants of both races can enjoy their stay on Saipan.

See FANTASTIC on Page 26

Wolf Mojica, left, poses with Bob Springer after commending Springer's efforts of volunteering in the Saipan Sportsfest in last Saturday's banquet at the Pacific Islands Club beach.



March Budweiser King of the Lanes Simon Manacop, left, poses with Budweiser Queen of the Lanes Ron Cal during the brief awards ceremony last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

## Rock Steady scores shutout win vs Kabur

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



The Rock Steady bullpen held their own against Kabur as they scored the first shutout win of the four-week old 2008 Budweiser-Saipan Major League season.

Ton Palacios and Joey Dela Cruz held Kabur to a combined 4-for-24 in batting.

The two shared pitching duties for Rock Steady in handing Kabur a 17-0 blanking Monday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The win was the fourth straight for Rock Steady to break their two-way tie for the lead with the vastly-improved Korean Dreams. Kabur suffered their third straight loss.

Palacios earned the win after pitching five innings in his second start, holding Kabur scoreless on four hits with five strike-

outs and two walks before being relieved by Dela Cruz in the top of the sixth.

Palacios was almost unhittable



Tony Palacios throws a pitch in this file photo taken during last season's Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

JON PEREZ

ble and gave up singles to Payton Sakuma, Rosco Yamada, Leo Bobai, and Roy Reguul.

Dela Cruz closed out for Rock Steady giving up no hit, fanning two, and walking one batter to complete the shutout. Poland Masaharu had a lead off walk for Kabur in the sixth and Bobai reached first base on an error.

Toi Celis led the Rock Steady hit parade going 2-for-5 with three runs, two doubles, and five RBIs, while Manny Sablan went 3-for-5 with two RBIs. Ed Manibusan went 2-for-3, scored one run, and had two RBIs, while Dane Lizama, 4-for-5, scored five times with a double and an RBI.

Martin Pangelinan had an RBI triple that highlighted Rock Steady's five-run fifth inning scoring. Rock Steady also used a six-run second inning to gain

See ROCK STEADY on Page 26

## NMA honors top athletes today

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER



Northern Marianas Athletics will honor the top performers of 2007 in today's 6pm awards banquet at the pavilion across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Aside from honoring the top performers, NMA will also award its Athlete of the Year with the nominees coming from the 36 athletes that topped their respective events last year.

Leading the list of nominees are 10-and-under top performers Gabrielle Race, Taylor Knecht, Michaela Grandinetti, and Emily Jones (girls); and Jordan Manglona, Jordan Butcher, Danny Auther, and Kenyan Schultz in the boys division.

The list for the 12-and-under is composed of Ashley Babauta,

Rachel Abraham, and Jellian Majors in the girls while the boys' have Angelo Jones, Crosby Schultz, Brandon Philips, David Ramon, Michael Mancao, and Byron Ryan.

Reylynn Sapong, Lia Rangamar, Madison Schultz, and Chiang Duenas are the ones nominated in the girls' 14-and-under, while J.R. Concepcion and Mike Bondoc will battle it out in the boys side.

Jacqueline Wonenberg is the lone nominee in the girls' 18-and-under division, while Nate Mateo, Champ Untalan, Matt Mancao, and Jesus Iguel will be competing in the boys.

Yvonne Bennett is the lone participant in the female open division with Nick Gross, Dexter Dillay, and Tyrone Omar duplicating the feat in the men's side.

The top roadrunners for See NMA on Page 26